



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Notification of Births Act, 1907 and 1915,
and Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

REPORT

UPON

Maternity and Child Welfare

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.

22nd July, 1937.

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Monmouthshire County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT,

22nd July, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.*

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Twenty-second Annual Report upon the work done in connection with the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918.

A—SUMMARY OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED.

During the twelve months ended the 31st December, 1936, 5,089 live births and 286 stillbirths, making a total of 5,375, were notified to this Department after adjusting the notifications transferred to other districts and those transferred from other districts.

The number of registered births in the County for the year, according to the Registrar General's return was 5,088, and 309 stillbirths, a total of 5,397.

Of the 5,375 notified births, 5,348 were notified by midwives and 27 by doctors and parents. The percentage of births notified by midwives is 99·49, which is the usual high figure.

B—WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

The work of the Health Visitors in respect of School Medical Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare is co-ordinated excepting at Ebbw Vale and Abertillery, where the County Health Visitors undertake Maternity and Child Welfare work only, as those areas are autonomous under the Education Act, 1902.

One of the County Health Visitors is engaged in School Medical Inspection work only, as she has not been approved by the Ministry of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare work. The Ministry require for all new appointments that nurses appointed as Health Visitors shall hold the Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There were at the end of the year 39 full-time Health Visitors on the Council's staff. In addition the Lecturer in Nursing under the Higher Education Committee devoted one day a week to Maternity and Child Welfare work. The apportionment of the time of the Health Visitors to Maternity and Child Welfare works out at approximately 25.

Nurses O. Griffiths, K. M. Walters, and C. Davies are also District Inspectresses of Midwives, to which work they devote two days per week. Nurse Griffiths is also Infant Protection Officer for the County and Mental Deficiency Enquiry Officer for the Eastern area of the County. She is the nurse in attendance at the Orthopædic Clinics, and engaged in Orthopædic after-care.

Nurses Walters and Davies give the remainder of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

Nurse R. Davies is the Mental Deficiency Enquiry Officer for the Western area of the County. She also has an Infant Welfare District.

The Maternity and Child Welfare duties of the Health Visitors include attendance at Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics, and the home visitation of infants up to the age of five years.

All infants are visited soon after the tenth day, and during the first year of life at intervals of three months, excepting those who at the first visit are found to be in homes where they are well cared for. The visit at nine months is important, because of the advice with regard to weaning of breast-fed babies. The visit, when the child attains the age of twelve months, is also important, so that the general condition and development of the infant may be noted. In cases where there is reason to believe home conditions are not entirely satisfactory, or when the child has some defect, visits are paid more frequently.

After the first year visits are paid four times yearly until the child attains the age of five. This arrangement was commenced at the beginning of November in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health that more frequent visits should be paid to children between the ages of $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 years. Two additional Health Visitors were appointed in order that this work could be undertaken. Previously visits were paid every six months.

Statistics relating to the duties of Health Visitors are given in the following pages, but their real value cannot be demonstrated by figures. Their work is of prime importance in a successful Infant Welfare Service. They are highly trained nurses, who, through their visits to the homes, are able to reach the mothers and instruct them in the correct care of the babies and toddlers. Their responsibilities are serious and it is gratifying to record that they meet them capably.

I.—VISITS PAID.—During the year, 56,919 visits were paid to the homes as follows :

NEW CASES. Babies seen	Re-visits under 1 year of age	Re-visits 1 to 5 years	Fruitless visits	Total Visits
1936—5050	13,637	34,315	3917	56,919
1935—5339	13,702	30,756	2487	52,284
1934—5401	14,933	33,695	1502	55,531
1933—5580	15,301	32,475	1078	54,434
1932—5762	16,684	23,667	907	47,020

1931.—First visits, 6,056 ; Fruitless visits, 940 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 15,544 ; Revisits 1-5 years, 23,055 ; Total, 45,595.

1930.—First visits, 6,731 ; Fruitless visits, 1,133 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 15,372 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 22,909 ; Total, 46,145.

1929.—First visits, 6,762 ; Fruitless visits, 1,122 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 15, 930 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 23,364 ; Total, 47,178.

1928.—First visits, 6,481 ; Fruitless visits, 1,047 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 10,881 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 18,066 ; Total, 36,475.

1927.—First visits, 6,031 ; Fruitless visits, 775 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 14, 246 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 21,496 ; Total, 42,548.

1926.—First visits, 7,467 ; Fruitless visits, 416 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 22,366 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 27,751 ; Total, 58,000.

1925.—First visits, 7,872 ; Fruitless visits, 590 ; Re-visits under 1 year, 22,541 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 30,641 ; Total, 61,644.

1924.—First visits, 8,577 ; Re-visits under one year, 24,319 ; Re-visits 1-5 years, 31,261 ; Total, 64,157.

II.—METHODS OF FEEDING OF INFANTS.—Of the new cases visited it was found that 3,848 children were being brought up entirely on the breast (76·1 per cent.) whilst 906 were being bottle fed (17·9 per cent.), and 246 were both breast and bottle fed (4·8 per cent.). It was discovered on subsequent visits that in 382 instances (7·5 per cent.) children breast-fed had been put on the bottle after the first visit of the Health Visitor, and before the usual time of weaning. The above percentages are of the total new cases seen. In 50 cases the child only survived birth by a few hours (·9 per cent.).

The percentage of breast-fed babies in this table is much higher than that given by the Medical Officers in the section of this report dealing with the work of the Centres, and it must be pointed out that the Health Visitors' figures deal with the feeding at the time of their first visits, *i.e.*, about 10 days after birth, and there is evidently a considerable diminution in breast-feeding during the next few months. Many mothers take their babies to the centre for the first time owing to their inability to continue breast-feeding.

The Health Visitors' figures show there is a decrease of 1·5 per cent. in the number of babies breast-fed, as compared with the previous year (1935). The percentage has been gradually falling for the past few years. In 1925 it was 86·2.

III.—SANITARY DEFECTS AT THE HOMES.—In accordance with the arrangements made at the initiation of the scheme, visits were paid by the Health Visitors to several of the District Medical Officers of Health for consultation purposes, and reports were made to those Medical Officers upon serious housing defects and overcrowding.

Although the Housing Act, 1930, which provides for the abolition of slum areas, is now in force, there is still much overcrowding in the County. The evils of bad housing, overcrowding and slum property have an important bearing on Maternity and Child Welfare, and better conditions would mean better physical and moral progress.

IV.—ANTE-NATAL.—The number of visits paid to expectant mothers was 921 to new cases, and 1,368 re-visits, a total of 2,289 visits. The figures for last year were 777 new cases, and 955 re-visits, a total of 1732 visits. The numbers are growing every year.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—During the year 1936 notification of 18 cases of Puerperal Fever were received under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, from the District Medical Officers of Health. Forty-five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were also notified. Upon investigation of these cases it was found that there were five cases of Septicæmia. Eight deaths occurred amongst the cases notified. All were immediately followed up by the Inspectresses of Midwives and measures were taken to prevent the spread of infection. When it was necessary the midwives were suspended from taking fresh cases until they had finished with the infected cases.

The Registrar-General's list of deaths during the year showed 16 from Puerperal Sepsis. In addition there were 5 deaths, which, although not certified as due to Puerperal Sepsis, were probably indirectly the result of this disease.

Further comments are made under the heading of Maternal Mortality.

A scheme for the provision of facilities for diagnosis and treatment of cases is in operation. Under the scheme, Professor G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., of Cardiff, has been retained as Consultant Obstetrician, and his services have been requisitioned frequently. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to an Infectious Diseases Hospital (two were admitted to Isolation Hospitals during the year) and any necessary bacteriological examination is made by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones, County Bacteriologist, at the County Laboratory, Newport.

V.—INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.—Ten cases of this disease were discovered during visits to homes, and nine re-visits paid, as against 11 and 9 re-visits in the year 1935.

Twenty-one deaths were registered in children under two years of age, giving a death rate of 4.1 per 1,000 births, as compared with 5.3 for the year 1935.

All cases of which the Health Visitor has knowledge are visited, but it is obvious that very many cases do not come to her notice. This disease is not notifiable.

During the years preceding the introduction of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, the death rate averaged 11 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the past fifteen years, which includes one very hot summer, when the rate was 17.2, has been 6 per 1,000 births. The reduction in the rate in recent years is undoubtedly due to the greater care which is now observed in the feeding of infants and the measures taken by the Council to ensure a clean milk supply.

The infective type of the disease is essentially one of the summer months and it varies in intensity according to the type of summer, many more cases occurring in really warm weather. During these months, the mothers attending the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are warned of the measures necessary to prevent the disease, and printed instructions to mothers are distributed by the Health Visitors at homes when cases are discovered.

VI.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Fourteen cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 23 cases in the year 1935, and 30 in 1931. These cases, together with other cases of eye trouble reported by the Midwives making a total of 120 cases, were followed up by the Health Visitors, who paid 394 visits to them. In one case there was unsatisfactory conduct on the part of the midwife and a warning letter was sent by the County Medical Officer.

Since the beginning of January, 1921, the Midwives practising within the Administrative County have been supplied with bottles of Collosol Argentum, with which they are instructed to treat the eyes of all children at birth. The supply is renewed upon application to the County Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. There is no doubt that these precautionary measures have succeeded in greatly reducing the incidence of blindness due to gonococcal infection, for rarely in recent years is there blindness from this cause.

The County Health Visitors are assiduous in their following up of affected cases. Medical treatment is immediately urged for the slightest case, and frequent visits are paid to see that the mothers are properly attending to the eyes of the infants. The Venereal Diseases Inquiry Officer also follows up cases suspected of gonococcal infection, with a view to attendance at the Clinic.

The Health Visitors have reported upon 120 cases as follows :—

NUMBER OF CASES VISITED.					Acute	Slight	Total
Brought forward from last year	..	..	..	..	—	3	3
New cases—							
Both eyes	..	..	..	..	13	46	59
One eye only	..	..	..	..	8	50	58
					21	99	120
Number of cases which attended hospital :							
As out-patients	..	..	..	..	3	—	3
As in-patients	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
Number of cases in which there was neglect on the part of the midwife					—	—	—
RESULTS :							
Completely cured	..	..	..	..	12	99	111
Blind—both eyes	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Blind—one eye	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Died	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Cases still being followed up at the end of the year					8	—	8
					21	99	120

Three of the cases were referred to the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

VII.—STILLBIRTHS.—The number of registered stillbirths was 309, which works out at 6·07 per 100 live births, a decrease of ·01 compared with the figure of 1935, which was 6·08 per 100 live births. This year's rate is equal to ·96 per 1,000 of population. It continues to be abnormally high, and compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales, which for 1936 was ·61 per 1,000 of population.

VIII.—UNREGISTERED WOMEN ACTING AS MIDWIVES.—No confinements were attended by unregistered women without a doctor during the year. The practice now appears to have ceased.

C—VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Administrative County in acres at the 31st December, 1936, was 328,881. Other related statistics are given in the accompanying table.

The District Medical Officers' figures of the ages at death of children under one year of age, show that during the year 123 infants died within one week of birth, and 173 died within the first month of birth, whilst 314 died within the first twelve months. With the figure of 309 stillbirths there was a total of 919 lives lost to the community.

The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births is 61·7, as compared with 61·4 for 1935. In 1934 the rate was 57·4; in 1933, 71·7; in 1932, 67·9; in 1931, 71·9; in 1930, 64·9; in 1929, 67·7; in 1928, 72·29; in 1927, 87·3; in 1926, 66·1; in 1925, 83·88; in 1924, 75·6; and in 1923, 73·0. The rate for the year under review is 4·3 above the rate for 1934, which was the lowest ever recorded in the County.

There were 5,088 live births registered during the year, a decrease of 187 when compared with the number for 1935, and the birth rate is 15·9 per 1,000 of population, compared with 16·12 in 1935. In the year 1934 it was 16·0; in 1933, 16·2; in 1932, 17·1; in 1931, 17·6; in 1930, 17·6; in 1929, 17·8; in 1928, 18·3; in 1927, 17·5; in 1926, 20·3; in 1925, 21·5; in 1924, 22·3; in 1923, 23·5; in 1922, 23·8; in 1921, 28·3; in 1920, 29·2; and in 1919, 22·9. It will be seen that the rate for 1936 is the lowest on record.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 178, or 3·49 per cent. of all births. Last year the number was 174 (3·2 per cent.), and for the year 1934, 178 (3·2 per cent.).

The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 14, or 2·7 per 1,000 of all births, and 78·0 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 9, or 1·7 per 1,000 of all births, and 51·7 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

C—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1936.

DISTRICTS	Esti- mated Popula- tion	BIRTHS								DEATHS				INFANTILE MORTALITY													
		Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total	Rate per 1000 of popula- tion	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000 of popula- tion	Total Deaths under One Year				Ages at Death of Children under One Year									
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female							Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	Total	Rate per 1000 births	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 m'nths	3—6 m'nths	6—9 m'nths	9—12 m'nths	Total under 1 year
URBAN—	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ABERCARN	19,430	161	138	4	6	165	144	309	15·8	115	101	216	11·1	23	—	23	74·4	8	5	—	—	13	5	1	2	2	23
ABERGAVENNY ..	8,092	50	53	1	3	51	56	107	13·2	68	61	129	15·9	5	—	5	46·7	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	1	5
ABERTILLERY ..	29,600	265	253	12	9	277	262	539	18·2	224	161	385	13·0	34	3	37	68·6	12	3	3	3	21	6	7	4	—	38
BEDWAS & MACHEN ..	8,724	72	62	4	1	76	63	139	15·9	53	39	92	10·5	5	1	6	43·1	3	—	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	6
BEDWELLTY	29,740	284	314	9	7	293	321	614	20·6	201	149	350	11·7	37	2	39	63·5	11	5	1	—	17	2	9	8	3	39
BLAENAVON	10,320	76	66	1	2	77	68	145	14·0	92	68	160	15·5	16	—	16	110·3	8	1	—	—	9	3	1	1	2	16
CAERLEON	3,347	21	18	—	—	21	18	39	11·6	18	15	33	9·8	4	—	4	102·5	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
CHEPSTOW	4,146	42	22	2	2	44	24	68	16·4	26	22	48	11·5	4	—	4	58·8	2	2	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	6
CWMBRAN	11,210	92	87	2	3	94	90	184	16·4	64	54	118	10·5	11	—	11	59·7	7	—	—	—	7	4	—	—	—	11
EBBW VALE	29,900	229	231	6	8	235	239	474	15·8	207	148	355	11·8	26	3	29	61·1	13	3	—	1	17	4	4	1	2	28
MONMOUTH	4,927	33	29	4	5	37	34	71	14·4	35	47	82	16·4	3	—	3	42·2	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
MYNYDDISLWYN ..	14,020	116	121	2	4	118	125	243	17·3	77	77	154	10·9	16	2	18	74·0	8	1	1	—	10	3	2	1	2	18
NANTYGLO & BLAINA	12,280	93	83	3	3	96	86	182	14·7	89	73	162	13·1	11	1	12	65·9	7	1	—	—	8	2	1	1	—	12
PONTYPOOL	41,370	316	283	10	7	326	290	616	14·8	263	217	480	11·6	33	2	35	56·8	9	1	5	—	15	9	3	5	3	35
RHYMNEY	9,900	90	80	2	2	92	82	174	17·5	72	54	126	12·7	9	—	9	51·7	3	2	—	—	5	2	—	1	1	9
RISCA	15,570	112	117	4	3	116	120	236	15·1	129	75	204	13·1	14	—	14	59·3	6	1	—	—	7	4	—	3	—	14
TREDEGAR	21,780	170	176	9	7	179	183	362	16·6	155	122	277	12·7	18	—	18	49·7	6	—	—	2	8	3	3	2	2	18
USK	1,244	6	8	—	—	6	8	14	11·2	9	10	19	15·2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RURAL—																											
ABERGAVENNY ..	8,477	48	51	3	2	51	53	104	12·2	52	32	84	9·9	4	2	6	57·6	3	1	—	1	5	—	—	1	—	6
CHEPSTOW	8,564	60	38	2	1	62	39	101	11·8	53	47	100	11·6	5	2	7	69·3	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	1	5
MAGOR & ST. MELLONS	15,880	109	105	6	2	115	107	222	13·9	101	100	201	12·6	10	1	11	49·5	5	1	1	2	9	1	—	1	—	11
MONMOUTH	5,985	35	38	3	8	38	46	84	14·0	49	31	80	13·3	1	2	3	35·7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
PONTYPOOL	5,434	35	22	1	3	36	25	61	11·2	40	32	72	13·2	4	—	4	65·5	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Grand Totals, 1936 ..	319,940	2,515	2,395	90	88	2,605	2,483	5,088	15·9	2,192	1,735	3,927	12·2	293	21	314	61·7	123	27	11	12	173	52	34	32	20	311
Totals for the year 1935 ..	327,150	2,647	2,454	97	77	2,744	2,531	5,275	16·12	2,070	1,691	3,761	11·5	315	9	324	61·4	121	26	19	17	183	49	33	31	26	322

N.B.—The figures in the columns with an asterisk were supplied by the Registrar-General, and the remainder by the District Medical Officers.

The District Infantile Mortality Rates, arranged in order of highest rate, are as follows :—

Districts	Present Year	(1935)	Districts	Present Year	(1935)
URBAN—			URBAN—		
Blaenavon	110.3	(35.7)	Abergavenny	46.7	(43.1)
Caerleon	102.5	(28.5)	Bedwas and Machen ..	43.1	(66.6)
Abercarn	74.4	(71.4)	Monmouth	42.2	(42.2)
Mynyddislwyn ..	74.0	(72.3)	Usk	—	(83.3)
Abertillery	68.6	(72.6)			
Nantyglo and Blaina	65.9	(56.1)			
Bedwellty	63.1	(59.5)			
Ebbw Vale	61.1	(66.4)	RURAL—		
Cwmbran	59.7	(99.1)			
Risca	59.3	(27.2)	Chepstow	69.3	(70.8)
Chepstow	58.8	(39.2)	Pontypool	65.5	(71.4)
Pontypool	56.8	(54.5)	Abergavenny	57.6	(67.9)
Rhymney	51.7	(67.9)	Magor & St. Mellons..	49.5	(43.1)
Tredegar	49.7	(64.7)	Monmouth	35.7	(43.4)

CAUSES OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES.	1936	(1935)	(1934)	(1933)
All causes	314	(324)	(321)	(399)
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—
Measles	1	(7)	—	(7)
Diphtheria	1	—	(1)	(2)
Whooping Cough ..	14	(7)	(13)	(15)
Influenza	—	—	(4)	(8)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	(1)	—	—
Meningococcal meningitis	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	(2)	—
Other Tubercular Diseases	3	(2)	(3)	(6)
Cancer (Malignant disease)	—	(1)	—	—
Syphilis	3	—	—	(1)
Bronchitis	18	(21)	(13)	(25)
Pneumonia (all forms)	48	(43)	(28)	(49)
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	(2)	(3)	(3)
Diarrhœa	18	(24)	(22)	(24)
Digestive Diseases ..	6	(3)	(2)	(5)
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—	(1)	—
Congenital Debility ..	174	(179)	(183)	(201)
Violence	6	(5)	(7)	(11)
Other Defined Diseases	20	(29)	(39)	(42)
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—	—

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1936, compiled by the Registrar-General, are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.				Death Rate per 1,000 living		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births	
	Live Births	Still Births	Live Births	Still Births				
	1936	1936	1935	1935	1936	1935	1936	1935
ENGLAND AND WALES	14.8	0.62	(14.7)	(0.62)	12.1	(11.7)	59	(57)
122 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	14.9	0.66	(14.8)	(0.68)	12.3	(11.8)	63	(62)
143 Smaller Towns (estimated resident populations, 25,000-50,000 at Census 1931	15.0	0.67	(14.8)	(0.64)	11.5	(11.2)	55	(55)
London	13.6	0.50	(13.3)	(0.52)	12.5	(11.4)	66	(58)
MONMOUTHSHIRE ..	15.9	0.94	(16.12)	(0.98)	12.2	(11.5)	61	(61)

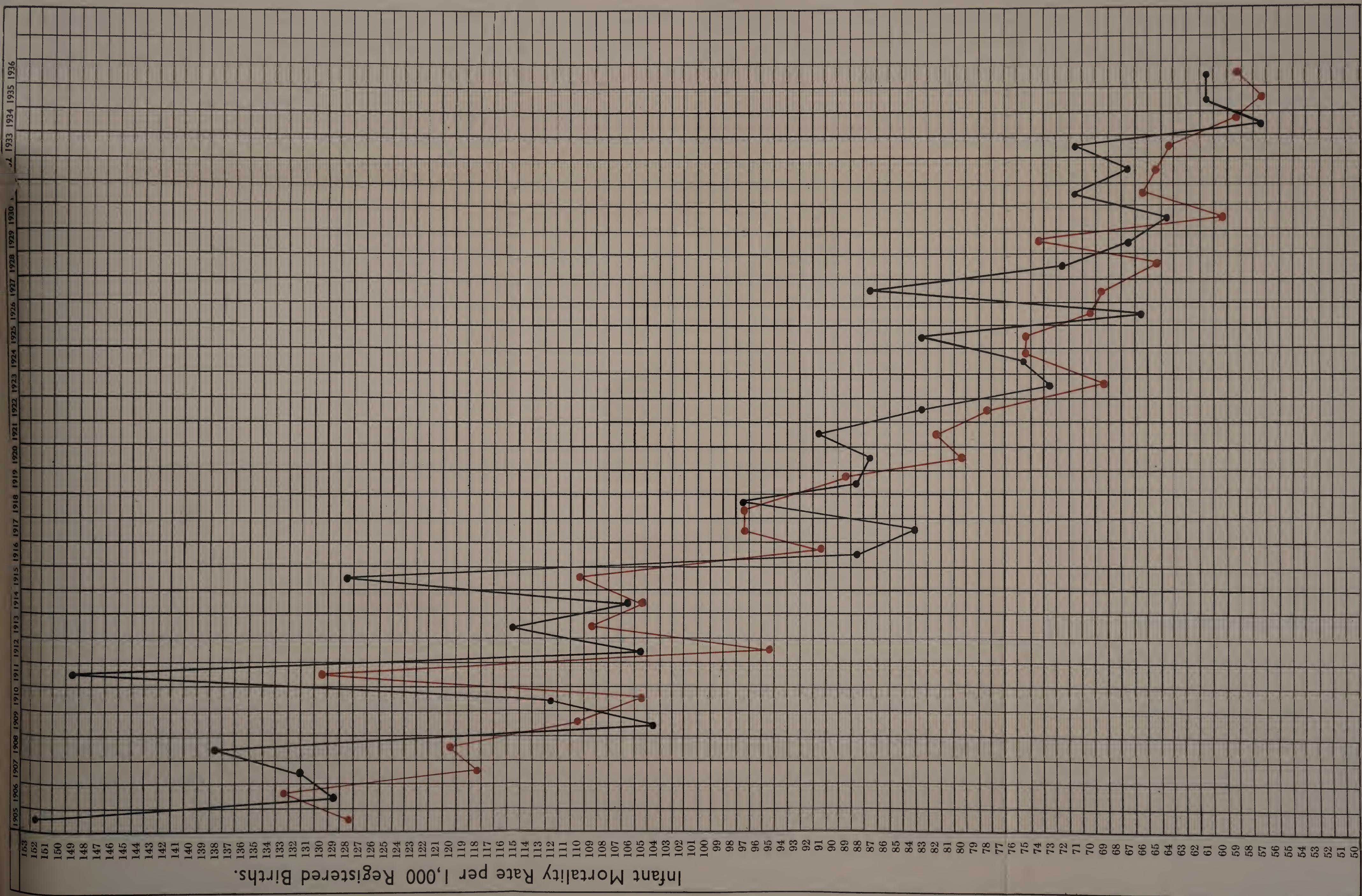
In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by the Registrar-General have been used for the purpose of this table.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.—The large proportion of deaths during the first four weeks of life (173 out of 314 under one year, or 55.1 per cent.) is still very noticeable. Of the total deaths under one year of age in this County a little more than half occur in and during the first four weeks. Although the infantile mortality rate has been so much reduced during the past 30 years the neo-natal rate remains very much the same. This year's percentage is 1.7 below that of last year.

These deaths are largely due to conditions of the mother and to difficulties during confinement and the problem is closely connected with that of maternal mortality. It is hoped that increasing ante-natal care of the expectant mother will reduce this mortality.

D—MATERNAL MORTALITY AND ANTE-NATAL CARE.

The number of deaths registered during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 35 ; 16 from puerperal sepsis and 19 from other puerperal causes. This is equal to a rate of 6.8 per 1,000 live births, which is the same as the figure for last year. Calculated upon total births (live and stillbirths) the figure is 6.4 per 1,000. The rate continues



The Black Line indicates the County Infantile Mortality Rate.
The Red Line indicates the Infantile Mortality Rate of England and Wales.

to be considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales, which for the year 1936 was 3.65 per 1,000 live births registered.

The County rates per 1,000 live births for the past twelve years have been :—

1936 .. 6.8	1932 .. 5.6	1928 .. 5.5
1935 .. 6.8	1931 .. 5.3	1927 .. 5.6
1934 .. 6.2	1930 .. 5.3	1926 .. 3.8
1933 .. 7.19	1929 .. 7.4	1925 .. 3.2

The maternal mortality rate remains at the same high figure. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the attendance at the Ante-Natal Clinics has again increased. The 17 Clinics were visited by 2,305 women (42.8 per cent. of the total number of births—live and still— notified during the year compared with 37.2 per cent. in 1935), who made 6,374 attendances compared with 5,414 in 1935, the average attendance per session being 19.08 compared with 18.4 in 1935 and 17.2 in 1934. This means that 42.8 per cent. compared with 37.2 per cent. in 1935 had at least one ante-natal examination.

The constant inspection and supervision of midwives continue and the inspectors are untiring in their efforts to help midwives to reach a high standard of efficiency in their work.

Notifications of puerperal pyrexia in the practices of midwives are still numerous and a very large proportion of the maternal deaths follow in Puerperal Septicæmia. Because of this, much of the Inspectors' time is taken up trying to combat this disease and during the year considerable thought and discussion have taken place with a view to finding ways by which we might diminish its incidence.

We still have midwives who do not appreciate sufficiently the value of frequent and regular examination of urine in the case of the expectant woman, but when the new Midwives Act is working properly this position should be improved.

The percentage of Maternal Deaths during the year from some form of sepsis was 40.8, while for the year 1935 it was 46.2.

In 1935, slightly less than one quarter of the deaths from sepsis was the result of miscarriage, while in 1936 amongst the deaths investigated and found due to sepsis, nearly half of these deaths were due to miscarriage. The cause of death certified in 8 out of the 10 deaths after miscarriage during 1936 was septicæmia. In 1935, 3 of the 4 deaths after miscarriage were due to septicæmia. It will be noticed that, although the official figure for deaths from Sepsis is 16, there were actually 18 deaths from Sepsis in the County, two of the deaths occurring in women who were not permanently resident in Monmouthshire.

In 1935 there were only 4 deaths following abortion and in 1936 there were 10 deaths from abortion.

Toxæmia of pregnancy accounted for 18.1 per cent. of the deaths, while in 1935 the percentage was 23.1. Accidents of labour, such as ante-partum and post-partum hæmorrhage and cardiac failure accounted for the remaining 41.1 per cent. of maternal deaths. There was one death following obstructed labour, the patient dying subsequently of Septicæmia. She had no ante-natal treatment at any time.

We still feel that no effort should be spared to deal with the prevention of Septicæmia and Toxæmia, which together accounted for nearly 59 per cent. of our maternal deaths, and certain new schemes have been started towards the end of 1936 which we hope will help to solve this problem.

Ante-Natal care means a thorough general examination of the patient early in pregnancy and careful observation at intervals throughout pregnancy. Most of the difficulties met with are preventable, and if detected early can be cured. We are glad to report that the women of the County are appreciating this more and more.

The following are the reports of the Medical Officers in charge of the Ante-Natal Clinics.

1.—DR. MARY SCOTT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

BLAENAVON.—This Clinic is open each month for one whole day. The numbers of expectant mothers who attended gradually increased during the year. The new patients numbered 67 compared with 44 in the previous year, and the average monthly attendance was 16·36 compared with 12·8 in 1935. Nearly 50% of the new patients were primiparæ. Seven of the patients who attended were not pregnant, several of them attending to have advice on some gynaecological condition dating from a previous pregnancy. Four patients were referred to the venereal disease department of the Royal Gwent Hospital. One patient, known to have this disease, refused to attend the hospital and had a premature still-born baby. One patient was removed to Tredegar Maternity Home for her confinement because of poverty and unsuitable home conditions. Twenty-five patients suffered from dental caries. All suitable cases were offered treatment for this, and the majority availed themselves of this treatment. Only two cases of malpresentation were found. Twenty-six patients had high blood pressure or albuminuria, or both. With rest and diet most of these patients improved considerably. There were three patients suffering from heart disease, one very severely, but all managed to deliver themselves safely at full time. Many patients suffered from the minor ailments associated with pregnancy, and in most the condition was alleviated by advice and treatment. Seven patients shewed signs of malnutrition.

BLAINA.—This Clinic is held on alternate Thursdays. The number of new patients who attended was 139 compared with 104 in 1935, while the average attendance was 17·68 compared with 17·5 in the previous year. About 47% of the new patients who attended were primiparæ. 8 patients who were not pregnant attended. 2 patients were referred to the venereal disease department of the Royal Gwent Hospital and received treatment there.

There were 9 cases of malpresentation in patients attending this Clinic. 3 patients were referred to the Obstetric Specialist and admitted to Cardiff Maternity Hospital. One had a contracted Pelvis and was delivered in Hospital of a living baby. The second had a dangerous malpresentation but had a living baby after difficult confinement in Hospital. The third patient was a case of Chronic Kidney trouble, who had had five premature babies and whose kidney condition became worse with each pregnancy. She was admitted to Hospital and had a premature baby four weeks before the expected date. The mother recovered satisfactorily but the baby died after a few hours. Later, this patient was given advice regarding prevention of further pregnancies. 11 patients shewed signs of malnutrition. Anæmia was present in a large proportion of patients, 28 women suffering from varying degrees of Anæmia. 49 patients had signs of Toxæmia.

CHEPSTOW.—This Clinic is held once each month. The new patients numbered 77 compared with 63 in the previous year and the average attendance was 18·81 compared with 13·6 in 1935. Patients, as in previous years, continued to attend from an adjoining area of Gloucestershire, through an arrangement made between the Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire County Councils. 15 new Gloucestershire patients attended during the year. About 40% of the new patients who attended were primiparæ. There were no patients who had to be referred for treatment at venereal disease Clinic, and all patients who attended this Ante-Natal Clinic during the year were pregnant. None of the patients, although many of them were very

poor, shewed signs of malnutrition. One patient was referred to the Consultant and admitted to Cardiff Maternity Hospital for Kidney disease. She remained there for several weeks under treatment, after which she returned to her home and had a normal full-time baby. 31 patients suffered from Toxæmia. There were 7 cases of malpresentation.

EBBW VALE.—This Clinic is held fortnightly on alternate Tuesdays. The new patients who attended during the year numbered 173 compared with 142 in 1935. The average attendance was 19·8 compared with 24·0 in the previous year. About 51% of the new patients who attended were primiparæ. 3 patients who attended were not pregnant. 8 patients shewed signs of malnutrition. 32 patients had dental caries and this was often associated with Anæmia from which 24 patients suffered. 12 cases of malpresentation were discovered. 98 out of the 173 new patients shewed signs of Toxæmia.

One patient was referred to the venereal disease Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital for Gonorrhœa. Several of the patients were confined in the Tredegar Maternity Home.

One patient was referred to the Consultant Obstetrician because of difficulty in diagnosis and she was found to be not pregnant. Another patient was admitted by Consultant to Cardiff Maternity Hospital because of malpresentation. Unfortunately, the child was still-born but the mother recovered. One patient was referred to Consultant because of marked Kidney complications, and he advised admission to Hospital. Before admission, however, she was confined five weeks prematurely of a still-born baby.

NEW TREDEGAR.—This Clinic is held monthly. The new patients who attended increased from 103 in 1935 to 117, while the average attendance was 22·83 compared to 18·6 in 1935. The re-visits paid by patients in this area, as in previous years, is low compared with that of other areas. Each patient made about 1·4 re-visits compared with an average of about 2 re-visits of patients in other areas. 36 patients were primiparæ. 14 patients suffered from malnutrition, and these seemed to attend chiefly from the Cwmsyflog and Aberbargoed districts of this area. Two patients suffering from venereal disease were referred to the Royal Gwent Hospital, but one of these would not continue her attendance there. By the end of the year her child had not been born but there is every possibility of this pregnancy resulting in a premature still-born baby as was the case in her previous pregnancies.

Three cases of malpresentation were discovered. No patients were referred to the Consultant Obstetrician. 21 patients had dental caries and many of them accepted treatment for this condition. 35 shewed signs of Toxæmia.

PONTYPOOL.—This Clinic is held on alternate Tuesdays 217 new patients attended compared with 199 in the previous year and the average attendance was 25·45, while that of the previous year was 29·7. About 33% of the new patients were primiparæ. 10 of the patients who attended were found to be not pregnant. 12 patients suffered from malnutrition. One patient was suffering from venereal disease and received treatment at the Royal Gwent Hospital for this condition. 11 patients were found to have some type of malpresentation.

99 patients shewed one or several of the signs of Toxæmia.

One patient was sent to Obstetric Specialist because of contracted pelvis. He advised admission to Hospital but patient refused, and was delivered at home after a very difficult confinement, the child living for only four days.

58 patients had dental caries, for which many of them received treatment at the local County Dental Clinic.

TREDEGAR.—This Clinic is held one half-day each week. The number of new patients was 234 compared with 261 in 1935. The average number of attendances per session was 15·14 compared with 15·5 in 1935.

Approximately 49% of the new patients were primiparæ. 5 patients attended who were not pregnant. 18 patients suffered from malnutrition. One patient received treatment at

the Royal Gwent Hospital for venereal disease. 11 cases of malpresentation were found. 39 patients had dental caries and many of them received treatment, either at the local Medical Society's Dental Clinic or from the County Dental Officers. The incidence of Toxæmia remained high as in previous years, and 122 patients shewed some of the signs of this condition.

Four patients were referred to the Consultant Obstetrician, one for malpresentation, one for hæmorrhage, one for severe Nephritis, and one for Chorea. Two were delivered in Hospital of living children. The patient suffering from Nephritis had her pregnancy terminated at 28 weeks because of the grave nature of her illness. The child was still-born but the mother recovered. The patient who suffered from Chorea remained in Hospital two months. She then was allowed to return home for a period and returned to Hospital for confinement, and had a living child.

One patient was delivered by Cæsarean Section in the local General Hospital.

PENGAM.—This Clinic is held for one day monthly. There were 93 new patients during the year compared with 102 in the previous year, and the average attendance per session was 23·90, while that of 1935 was 21·1.

The primiparæ amongst the new cases who attended numbered about 30%. This is rather lower than the percentage of other areas. 4 patients who attended were not pregnant. 17 patients suffered from malnutrition. 20 patients had dental caries, and practically all of these received treatment from the County Dental Surgeons for this condition. 2 patients received treatment for venereal disease at the Royal Gwent Hospital. 2 other patients thought to be suffering from this condition were referred to the venereal disease department but, fortunately, both were found to be free of this disease. There were 4 cases of malpresentation. 4 patients were referred to the Obstetric Specialist. One had labour induced before full time and had a living child; the second was delivered alive by Cæsarean Section, and the third and fourth were delivered in Hospital also of living children.

2.—DR. MARY GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County, Council.

NEWPORT.—This Clinic is open on alternate Fridays (morning and afternoon sessions) and serves a wide area of the County around Newport.

The attendances show an increase over last year's figure—255 new cases attended compared with 202; 509 re-visits were paid as against 337; and the average attendance per session was 33·21 compared with 25·6 in 1936.

Of the new cases attending, 57% were primiparæ; 82% were referred to the Clinic by a midwife; 8% were sent by the County Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer; 6% came of their own accord, and 4% came through the advice of their own doctors. As has been the case since the inception of the Clinic, by far the greatest proportion of patients reporting came from a midwife. Many midwives attended personally with their patients—those who did not come were written to after the last visit of the patient to the Clinic.

The nutrition of most of the patients attending for the first time was average—but 8·2% showed subnormal nutrition and 2·3% showed malnutrition due to under-feeding. In only 2·7% of patients attending for the first time was the nutrition excellent. Pyorrhœa and Anæmia usually accompanied the subnormal nutrition. Free food supplied by the National Birthday Trust Fund was given to 50 women whose husbands were unemployed, and dried milk and Colact (and in a few cases fresh milk) were given to 25 others. By this means the standard of nutrition was raised and the way was paved for breast-feeding.

28 patients, whose blood-pressure on first attendance was 140-150 systolic, were kept on diet throughout pregnancy. In 15 of these the pressure was 130 systolic on the last visit to the Clinic. As far as one could trace the records, all of these patients had live children.

SCHEDULE OF ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.										
Clinic	Premises Used	Day and Time of Ante-natal Clinic	Date of Opening	Medical Officer in Charge	Health Visitor	District served by the Clinic	No. of New Cases attended	Re-Visits	Total	Average Attendance at each Session
Abergavenny ..	Boy Scouts' Rooms, Neville Street	4th Tuesday in month, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.	1929 Nov. 26th	Dr. Annie C. Roberts	Nurse M. Sainsbury	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Areas	36	47	83	6.9
Abersychan ..	Congregational Schoolroom	4th Wednesday in month, 2 to 4 p.m.	Nov. 6th 1930	Dr. P. R. Whittaker	Nurse L. Howell	Abersychan, Varteg and Garndiffaith	63	68	131	10.9
Abertillery ..	59 Tillery Street	Alternate Tuesdays—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	July 19th 1930	Dr. P. R. Whittaker	Nurse D. Beachem	Abertillery, Six Bells, Aberbeeg & Llanhilleth	331	566	897	35.8
Blaenavon ..	The Hospital	4th Friday in month, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.	July 29th 1929	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse C. M. Phillips	Blaenavon Urban District	67	113	180	16.3
Blaina ..	Church Institute	Alternate Thursdays, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3 p.m.	Nov. 12th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse C. Davies	Nantyglo and Blaina	139	303	442	17.6
Chepstow ..	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge St. School	1st Friday in month, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Dec. 6th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse K. Webb	Chepstow Urban and Rural Areas	77	130	207	18.8
Crumlin ..	The Clinic, Hafodyrynys Road	Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 1st	Dr. Philomene Whittaker	Nurse G. I. Golding	Llanhilleth, Crumlin, Hafodyrynys, Newbridge, Abercarn and Cwmcarn	285	484	769	17.4
Ebbw Vale ..	James Street, Wesleyan Chapel	Alternate Tuesdays—9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 19th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. Redwood	Ebbw Vale, Beaufort, Victoria, Waunllwyd and Cwm	173	322	495	19.8
Monmouth ..	Working Men's Institute, Monk St.	1st Friday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Dec. 6th	Dr. Evelyn D. Owen	Nurse A. Stephen	Monmouth Urban and Rural Areas	35	44	79	6.5
Newport ..	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Gold Tops	Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.	Dec. 2nd	Dr. Mary Gordon	Nurse E. Wilmot	Machen, Rhiwderin, Rogerstone, Bassaleg, Ynysddu, Cwmfelin-fach, Cross Keys, Risca, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran, Malpas, Caerleon, Caldicot, Magor Rural Area, St. Mellons Rural Area	255	509	764	33.2
New Tredegar	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom	3rd Friday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3 p.m.	Nov. 15th	Dr. Mary Scott	Burse F. Williams	New Tredegar, Cwmsyflog and Aberbargoed	117	157	274	22.8
Oakdale ..	Women's Institute	Alternate Tuesdays—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Oct. 28th	Dr. Philomene Whittaker	Nurse G. I. Golding	Oakdale, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith	122	181	303	12.6
Pengam ..	The Clinic, Vine House	2nd Friday in month, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 1.30 to 3 p.m.	Dec. 3rd	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. B. James	Cefn Forest, Pengam, Maesycwmmr, Bedwas & Trethomas	93	170	263	23.9
Pontypool ..	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street	Alternate Tuesdays—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 26th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse E. A. Morgan	Pontypool, Pontnewynydd, Pontymoile, Panteg, and Griffithstown	217	394	611	25.4
Rhymney ..	Domestic Arts Centre, Middle Rhymney School	1st Tuesday in month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon	Dec. 3rd 1936	Dr. Evelyn D. Owen	Nurse W. Jones	Rhymney and Abertyswg	59	87	146	12.1
Rumney ..	Baptist Chapel	1st Thursday in month	Oct. 1st 1929	Dr. Evelyn D. Owen,	Nurse E. Wilmot	Rumney & St. Mellons	2	1	3	1.0
Tredegar ..	Maternity Home, Park View	Every Wednesday—2 to 4 p.m.	Nov. 19th	Dr. Mary Scott	Nurse M. Payne	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Bedwellty Pits, Troedrhigwair, Hollybush, Markham Village and Argoed	234	493	727	15.1
Totals ..							2305	4069	6374	19.08

E.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The following are the details of the Centres now open under the scheme approved by the County Council and the Local Government Board in 1916, the number being 42 :—

Location of Centre	District Served	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Days and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer
Aberbargoed ..	Aberbargoed	Methodist Chapel, Aberbargoed	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. A. C. Roberts
Abercarn ..	Abercarn and Cwmcarn	English Baptist Church Schoolroom, Abercarn	Oct. 18th	Thursday, 10 a.m.— 12.30 p.m. 2.30—4.30 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Griffith
Abergavenny ..	Abergavenny Urban and Rural Districts	Boy Scouts' Rooms, Neville Street, Abergavenny	April 17th	Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Dr. G. W. Parry
Abersychan ..	Abersychan	Congregational Schoolroom, Abersychan	1918 Oct. 29th	Wednesday, 11 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Abertillery ..	Abertillery and Cwmtillery	59 Tillery Street, Abertillery	1917 June 8th	Friday, 10 a.m.— 3 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Abertysswg ..	Abertysswg	Ainon Baptist Chapel, Abertysswg	1920 July 7th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Beaufort ..	Beaufort	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Beaufort	1919 Sept. 3rd	Thursday, 11 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
Blackwood ..	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Monday, 10.30 a.m.— 12.30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. S. M. Dewar
Blaenavon ..	Blaenavon	Workmen's Surgery, Blaenavon	June 6th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Blaina ..	Blaina	Church Institute, Blaina	April 17th	Friday, 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.	Dr. W. Panes
Caerleon ..	Caerleon and Christchurch	Tan House, Mill Street, Caerleon	Nov. 21st	Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Caldicot ..	Caldicot, Sudbrook, Portskewett & District	Wesleyan Chapel, Caldicot	1920 June 1st	Tuesday, 10 a.m.— 3.30 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
Chepstow ..	Chepstow Urban and Rural Districts	Domestic Arts Centre, Bridge Street School, Chepstow	1917 March 27th	Thursday, 10 a.m.— 12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. J. J. O'Reilly
Crosskeys ..	Crosskeys, Wattsville and Pontywaun	Primitive Methodist Schoolroom, Crosskeys	Nov. 23rd	Friday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. S. M. Dewar
Crumlin ..	Crumlin	4 Hafodyrynys Road, Crumlin	1924 March 28th	Wednesday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Cwm ..	Cwm, Victoria and Waunllwyd	Parish Hall, Cwm	1917 Nov. 20th	Thursday, 10.30 a.m.— 4 p.m. Doctor attends on alternate Thursdays.	Dr. W. Panes
Cwmbran ..	Llantarnam, Cwmbran, Llanfrechfa and Ponthir	Wesley Schoolroom, Cwmbran	March 21st	Thursday, 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Ebbw Vale ..	Ebbw Vale	James Street Wesleyan Chapel, Ebbw Vale	March 13th	Tuesday, 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.	Dr. F. M. Fonseca
Garndiffaith ..	Varteg, Victoria, Cwmavon and Garndiffaith	Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom, Garndiffaith	Oct. 23rd	Tuesday, 11 a.m.— 1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Llanhilleth ..	Llanhilleth and Aberbeeg	Workmen's Institute, Llanhilleth	1917 Oct. 15th	Monday, 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith

Location of Centre	District Served	Premises Utilised	Date of Opening	Days and Hours of Consultations	Medical Officer
Markham Village	Markham	46 Abernant Road, Markham	1933 Feb. 15th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. C. Roberts
Monmouth ..	Monmouth Urban and Rural Districts	Workingmen's Inst., Monk St., Monmouth	1917 June 15th	Friday, 10 a.m.—4.30 p.m.	Dr. W. H. Williams
Nantyglo ..	Nantyglo	English Wesleyan Church, Nantyglo	1924 July 14th	Monday, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. H. V. M. Jones
Newbridge ..	Newbridge and Pentwynmawr	Tabernacle Baptist Schoolroom, Newbridge	1917 March 20th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Newport ..	Maesglas,, Gaer Park, St. Brides, Magor,	School Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport	March 21st	Alternate Wednesdays 2—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Gordon
New Tredegar ..	New Tredegar and Cwmsyflog	Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom, New Tredegar	March 29th	Monday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. W. B. Owen
Oakdale ..	Oakdale, Rhiw-syr-dafydd and Markham Village	Wesleyan Methodist Women's Institute Oakdale	1918 Oct. 25th	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Dr. M. Scott
Panteg ..	Panteg, Griffithstown and Pontrhydyrun	Baptist Chapel, Griffithstown	1917 March 21st	Thursday, 10—12 noon	Dr. B. O. MacQuillan
Pengam ..	Pengam, Fleur-de-lis and Maesycwmmmer	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	March 12th	Thursday, 10.30—12.30 and 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. A. S. Monro
Pontnewynydd ..	Pontnewynydd	Wesleyan Chapel, Pontnewynydd	April 19th	Thursday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. R. J. S. Verity
Pontymoile ..	Pontymoile, New Inn, and Pontypool Road	Mission Hall, Pontymoile	Oct. 17th	Tuesday, 10—12 noon	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Pontypool ..	Pontypool, Mamhilad, Glascoed, Goytre, Coedypaen, Llangibby	Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, Pontypool	May 9th	Wednesday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. D. Owen
Rhymney ..	Rhymney and Rhymney Bridge	Domestic Arts Centre, Middle Rhymney School	March 12th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. R. V. de A. Redwood
Risca ..	Risca	Domestic Arts Centre, Danygraig School, Risca	March 23rd	Friday, 10—12 noon and 2—4 p.m.	Dr. A. C. Roberts
Rogerstone ..	Rogerstone, Bassaleg, and Rhiwderin	Domestic Arts Centre, Rogerstone School	Nov. 12th	Alternate Fridays, 10—12 noon	Dr. M. Gordon
Rumney ..	St. Mellons, Peterstone and Rumney	Baptist Chapel, Rumney	Dec. 5th	Thursdays, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. E. D. Owen
Six Bells ..	Six Bells and Aberbeeg	Methodist Chapel, High St., Six Bells	1920 Sept. 29th	Wednesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. Baillie Smith
Tredegar ..	Tredegar, Sirhowy, Trevil, Troedrhiw-gwair, Bedwellty Pits, Hollybush	Wesleyan Chapel, Harcourt Street, Tredegar	1917 Feb. 26th	Tuesday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.	Dr. E. T. H. Davies
Trethomas ..	Trethomas, Bedwas and Machen	Baptist Chapel Trethomas	April 19th	Monday, 10.30—12.30 and 1.30—3.30 p.m.	Dr. Mary Scott
Upper Pontnewydd ..	Pontnewydd and Croesyceiliog	Ashley House, Pontnewydd	1919 June 16th	Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	Dr. T. M. O'Riordan
Usk ..	Usk and Rural Area	Twyn Square, Usk	Nov. 11th	Alternate Mondays, 10—4 p.m.	Dr. P. R. Whitaker
Ynysddu ..	Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu	Domestic Arts Centre, Ynysddu School	March 23rd 1917	Friday, 10—12 noon	Dr. A. S. M. Dewar

F.—DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT CENTRES.

CENTRE	MEDICAL OFFICER	No. of Infants on Register at 31st Dec., 1936	INFANTS						NURSING MOTHERS			EXPECTANT MOTHERS				
			New Cases		Re-visits		Total	Grand Total	Average Attendance at each Session	New Cases	Re- Visits	Total	New Cases	Re- Visits	Total	
			Under 1 Year	1—5 Years	Under 1 Year	1—5 Years										
Aberbargoed	Dr. A. Roberts	241	82	14	1031	559	1113	573	1686	35.12	85	97	182	4	—	4
Abercarn	Dr. E. M. Griffith	266	125	4	2148	1555	2273	1559	3832	81.53	2	6	8	2	—	2
Abergavenny	Dr. G. W. Parry	312	133	25	1291	668	1424	693	2117	43.20	71	531	602	11	6	17
Abersychan	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	167	74	10	601	317	675	327	1002	20.44	10	20	30	—	—	—
Abertillery	Dr. T. B. Smith	594	240	21	2250	1093	2490	1114	3604	75.08	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abertysswg	Dr. M. Scott	93	38	2	461	182	499	184	683	13.93	7	1	8	1	—	1
Beaufort	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	134	54	2	785	545	839	547	1386	29.48	3	13	16	—	—	—
Blackwood	Dr. A. Dewar	385	149	57	1487	898	1636	955	2591	53.97	37	54	91	1	1	2
Blaenavon	Dr. T. M. O’Riordan	332	124	19	1041	760	1165	779	1944	39.67	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blaina	Dr. W. Panes	307	121	2	1578	849	1699	851	2550	52.04	38	137	175	—	—	—
Caerleon	Dr. M. Gordon	100	31	7	335	261	366	268	634	25.36	45	104	149	9	12	21
Caldicot	Dr. M. Gordon	137	53	21	768	952	821	973	1794	36.61	49	122	171	16	15	31
Chepstow	Dr. J. J. O’Reilly	215	81	18	1149	1224	1230	1242	2472	52.59	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crosskeys	Dr. A. Dewar	101	54	2	868	281	922	283	1205	25.10	16	82	98	7	3	10
Crumlin	Dr. T. M. O’Riordan	217	103	3	1077	602	1180	605	1785	37.18	62	128	190	—	—	—
Cwm	Dr. W. Panes	214	93	10	1178	571	1271	581	1852	36.5	14	24	38	—	—	—
Cwmbran	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	232	105	8	1355	827	1460	835	2295	48.82	113	187	300	28	38	66
Ebbw Vale	Dr. F. M. Fonseca	418	207	25	2375	868	2582	893	3475	70.91	2	4	6	1	1	2
Garndiffaith	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	142	65	4	577	221	642	225	867	17.69	24	16	40	1	1	2
Llanhilleth	Dr. T. B. Smith	382	137	17	1528	735	1665	752	2417	50.35	—	—	—	1	1	2
Markham	Dr. A. Roberts	140	59	2	630	311	689	313	1002	20.44	2	6	8	1	—	—
Monmouth	Dr. W. H. Williams	313	95	17	1113	656	1208	673	1881	39.16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nantyglo	Dr. H. V. M. Jones	177	64	7	817	559	881	566	1447	30.14	25	115	140	—	—	—
Newbridge	Dr. T. M. O’Riordan	267	108	2	2033	1259	2141	1261	3402	70.87	81	414	495	14	15	29
Newport	Dr. M. Gordon	62	24	15	171	83	195	98	293	12.73	19	71	90	—	—	—
New Tredegar	Dr. W. B. Owen	299	131	16	1679	427	1810	443	2253	46.93	76	16	92	1	—	1
Oakdale	Dr. M. Scott	182	80	43	518	361	598	404	1002	41.75	30	65	95	—	—	—
Panteg	Dr. B. L. MacQuillan	221	86	4	1185	681	1271	685	1956	41.61	94	244	338	4	3	7
Pengam	Dr. A. S. Monro	417	169	21	1861	669	2030	690	2720	57.87	161	607	768	3	1	4
Pontnewydd	Dr. T. M. O’Riordan	139	60	6	919	336	979	342	1321	26.95	65	301	366	8	2	10
Pontnewynydd	Dr. R. J. S. Verity	233	89	3	1135	495	1224	498	1722	36.63	50	122	172	—	—	—
Pontymoile	Dr. T. M. O’Riordan	104	47	7	739	199	786	206	992	20.24	38	298	336	—	—	—
Pontypool	Dr. E. D. Owen	319	119	22	1513	897	1632	919	2551	52.06	89	171	260	3	1	4
Rhymney	Dr. R. V. Redwood	233	110	5	1032	231	1142	236	1378	28.12	57	172	229	1	—	1
Risca	Dr. A. Roberts	335	128	9	2123	1251	2251	1360	3611	75.22	51	73	124	18	4	22
Rogerstone	Dr. M. Gordon	141	42	7	466	427	508	434	942	36.23	62	176	238	17	9	26
Rumney	Dr. E. D. Owen	149	51	20	551	402	602	422	1024	32.0	29	62	91	1	—	—
Six Bells	Dr. T. B. Smith	317	118	14	1150	552	1268	566	1834	38.20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tredegar	Dr. E. T. H. Davies	442	246	14	1872	470	2118	484	2602	53.10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trethomas	Dr. M. Scott	236	92	5	1320	773	1412	778	2190	46.59	13	37	50	24	9	33
Usk	Dr. P. R. Whitaker	117	25	8	412	506	437	514	951	39.62	5	12	17	24	49	73
Ynysddu	Dr. A. Dewar	187	85	38	1036	581	1121	619	1740	36.25	66	126	192	28	48	76
	Total	10019	4097	556	48158	26194	52255	26750	79005	41.84	1591	4614	6205	229	219	448

Possibly in some of these cases the systolic blood-pressure was normally high, but all patients agreed that their general health was improved by dieting, and in no case was the baby's nutrition at birth affected.

Constipation, heartburn and varicose veins were the chief ailments, and the treatment of these and the giving of cod liver oil in condensed form greatly improved the health of the mothers.

5 cases of rheumatic heart disease attended—two were admitted to Glossop Terrace, one of whom had the uterus emptied at the fourth month, and the other was safely delivered of a healthy baby.

200 live births were traced. 5 mothers had their babies in Tredegar Maternity Home ; 2 in Herbert Street Nursing Home ; 1 difficult confinement, resulting in a still-birth, occurred in the Royal Gwent Hospital.

One case of recurring miscarriage sent to Professor Strachan was found to have a fibroid tumour. Four cases of minor degrees of contracted pelvis were admitted to Glossop Terrace and had live births. One case of extremely high blood-pressure, with no albuminuria, was seen by Professor Strachan, who advised admission to Hospital. The patient did not go into Hospital and had a still-birth shortly afterwards.

12 cases were referred to the V.D. Department, Royal Gwent Hospital, for investigation of vaginal discharge.

9 non-pregnant cases reported.

3.—DR. ANNIE C. ROBERTS, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERGAVENNY.—36 women attended this Centre in 1936, 33 being new cases and 3 old. The average attendance was 6·6, the attendance dropping in the later months of the year when the weather was bad. 6 women who had attended in the later months of 1935, and had their confinements early in 1936, had normal labours. Of the 36 who attended, two were post-natal cases, one was not pregnant, one left the district, and two were not due to be confined till 1937. Of the remaining 30, 25 had live births and 5 had a still-birth or a miscarriage. This unduly high proportion was noticed also in 1935, but it should be noted that at this Centre cases sent by midwives are mostly those in which they fear some abnormality. Of four women who attended in 1936, all of whom had had one pregnancy previously, two gave a history of a still-birth, one of a miscarriage, and one of a premature birth followed by death of the infant. These four all had normal confinements in 1936.

Many of the women here have their confinements in the local Hospital. As ante-natal examinations are done there, there is consequently no need for these cases to attend the Centre.

4.—DR. P. R. WHITAKER, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

ABERSYCHAN.—This Centre is held once a month, and the attendance during the year shews a marked increase, having risen from 67 to 131, while the average attendance per session=10·9 as compared to 8·3 last year.

The percentage of primiparæ remains good, and on the whole the general physique of the mothers has improved. This may be due to the fact that more patients now attend this Clinic. It is gratifying to find that the usual high percentage of "abnormal" cases has not been maintained. Patients now attend from choice and not necessarily because they have been asked to come. One cannot help feeling that it would be more satisfactory if this Centre were held at more frequent intervals. Cases are "missed" because the time between the examinations is too long, and there is no means of re-examining a difficult case.

ABERTILLERY.—This Clinic, now held once a fortnight, maintains its usual good attendance. During the year 331 new cases were seen and 566 re-examined ; making a total of 897, and an average attendance of 35.88. This is an increase on last year, when total attendance was 828 and new cases numbered 307.

The percentage of primiparæ remains the same, being 37%. There is a marked improvement in the "attitude" of mind in patients attending the Centre. They are beginning to realize that it is in their best interest to attend for examination and supervision during their pregnancies. They appreciate the assurance that all is well, and look upon the examination as mere routine and not necessarily indicative of trouble.

The midwives in this area are very helpful in bringing up abnormal cases, and reporting on the progress of the confinements later.

CRUMLIN.—This Centre, held once a week now, is always well attended. During the year the total attendances have risen from 733 to 769, and the average attendance per session was 17.47 as compared to 15.9 last year.

Of the 285 new cases, 37% were primiparæ and some 20% shewed some abnormality in their pregnancies. These included malpresentation, contracted pelvis, renal inefficiency, and heart disease.

Abnormal cases requiring obstetric supervision and treatment were referred to Professor Strachan at Glossop Terrace, Cardiff.

OAKDALE.—This Clinic is held once a fortnight and is quite well attended. During 1936 new cases numbered 122, and total number examined=303, while the average attendance per session=12.6. This is an increase on last year's figure, 289.

Of the 122 new cases 29% only were primiparæ. Several cases of malnutrition were referred from other Centres to this Clinic for assistance, but the average case at this Clinic shows normal physique. Any needy cases were given milk or milk foods to help them.

4.—DR. EVELYN D. OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

RUMNEY.—A Centre was opened here towards the end of the year, to be held one half-day a month.

RHYMNEY.—This Clinic is held once a month for a half-day. It has grown considerably in the last year. There were 59 new cases with an average attendance of 12.16 per session, whereas in 1935 the corresponding figures were 38 and 8. Eighteen of the patients who attended were primiparæ ; eight had attended the Clinic in a previous pregnancy ; four in two previous pregnancies ; one in three previous pregnancies, and one in four previous pregnancies. One patient was found to be not pregnant. A patient who gave a history of serious difficulty in previous confinements was sent to Professor Strachan, who advised admission to the Glossop Terrace Maternity Home, where she was successfully delivered of a live child. Two patients went to the Tredegar Nursing Home for their confinements. Three cases of malnutrition were seen and six of anæmia. Eighteen mothers were given Dorsella Marmite and Ovaltine through the National Birthday Trust Fund, with undoubted benefit to their general condition.

**G—DETAILS OF MOTHERS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS
GIVEN AT THE WELFARE CENTRES.**

Peculiar to Nursing Mothers—

Deficient Lactation	110
Sore Nipples	25
Mastitis	46
Not Classified.. ..	12

Peculiar to Women—

Menorrhagia	53
Leucorrhœa	26
Amenorrhœa	8
Prolapse of Uterus	15
Abnormal Vaginal Discharge	7
Dysmenorrhœa	4
Pruritis Vulvæ	9
Metrorrhagia	6
Hyperemesis	2
Abortion	3
Not Classified.. ..	12

Alimentary System—

Constipation	202
Dental Caries	623
Hæmorrhoids	55
Gastritis	49
Pyorrhœa	62
Diarrhœa	18
Jaundice	10
Stomatitis	16
Not Classified.. ..	14

**Respiratory, Cardiac and Circulatory
Systems—**

Anæmia	291
Bronchitis & Bronchial Catarrh	93
Varicose Veins	12
Heart Disease.. ..	10
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Asthma.. ..	3
Pleurisy	3
Phlebitis	1
Not Classified.. ..	5

Venereal Diseases—

Venereal Disease	7
Suspected Venereal Disease..	4

Skin—

Chilblains	1
Psoriasis	4
Eczema	18
Boils	5
Scabies	3
Lipoma	1
Urticaria	6
Dermatitis	14
Abscess	15
Ringworm	4
Not Classified	10

Eye—

Conjunctivitis	7
Blepharitis	4
Styes	9
Iritis	1

Ear, Nose and Throat—

Laryngitis	9
Tonsilitis	15
Enlarged Thyroid	13
Nasal Catarrh	3
Otorrhœa	6
Enlarged Tonsils	9
Not Classified	8

Nervous System—

Neuralgia	9
Neuritis	7
Giddiness	1
Fits	2
Epilepsy	6
Not Classified	4

Urinary System—

Cystitis	5
Incontinence	2
Nephritis	28
Rheumatism	10
Not Classified	7

General Debility and Malnutrition

2

H—DETAILS OF INFANTS' AILMENTS UPON WHICH ADVICE WAS GIVEN AT THE WELFARE CENTRES.

Prematurity 35

Birth Injuries and Malformations—

Umbilical Protrusion and Hernia 282
 Phimosis 276
 Inguinal Hernia 63
 Tongue Tie 59
 Hydrocele 10
 Undescended Testicles .. 12
 Hydrocephalus 4
 Hare Lip 3
 Cleft Palate 2
 Spina Bifida 5
 Hæmatoma (Sterno-mastoid) 5
 Meningocele 2
 Hypospadias 3
 Imperforate Hymen 3
 Imperfect Anus 2
 Not Classified.. .. 10

Nervous System—

Convulsions 19
 Mentally Deficient 10
 Nervous 2

Respiratory, Cardiac and Circulatory Systems—

Bronchitis & Bronchial Catarrh 1068
 Anæmia 95
 Heart Disease.. .. 28
 Whooping Cough 30
 Pneumonia 31
 Tuberculosis of Lungs .. 36
 Asthma 8
 Epistaxis 1
 Pleurisy 3
 Not Classified.. .. 9

Skin—

Impetigo 151
 Urticaria 214
 Intertrigo 92
 Eczema.. .. 126
 Umbilical Discharge .. 82
 Nævus 49
 Sores 45
 Scabies.. .. 16
 Seborrhœa 5
 Abscess 31

Alimentary System—

Constipation 443
 Enteritis 251
 Gastro-Enteritis 192
 Stomatitis 138
 Dentition 201
 Worms 212
 Gastritis 111
 Flatulence 74
 Vomiting 51
 Jaundice 19
 Colitis 3
 Tuberculosis of Abdomen .. 2
 Rectal Prolapse 1
 Not Classified 12

Bones and Joints—

Orthopædic Conditions .. 135

Eye—

Blepharitis 112
 Conjunctivitis.. .. 141
 Squint 82
 Nystagmus 5
 Ptosis 2
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. 10
 Epiphora 1
 Keratitis 4
 Styes 8
 Not Classified 14

Ear, Nose and Throat—

Nasal Catarrh 410
 Otorrhœa and Otitis 187
 Septic and Enlarged Tonsils
 and Adenoids 201
 Mouth Breathing 3
 Laryngitis 9
 Deafness 1
 Tonsillitis 6
 Not Classified 8

Lymphatic System—

Adenitis 87
 Enlarged Glands 3

Skin—*continued*.

Burns and Scalds	36
Boils	8
Dermatitis	40
Sore Buttocks.. ..	44
Ringworm	3
Mastitis	14
Pemphigus Neonatorum ..	2
Erythema	2
Psoriasis	1
Chilblains	3
Vulvitis	1
Not Classified.. ..	15

Urinary System—

Enuresis	31
Cystitis.. ..	64
Nephritis	2
Retention	2
Inflamed Penis	1

Deficiency Diseases—

Rickets	138
Debility	151
Malnutrition	188
Marasmus	21

Venereal Diseases—

Congenital Syphilis	2
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Rheumatism—

Chorea.. ..	4
Growing Pains	5

Miscellaneous—

Infectious Diseases	129
Injuries	16
Deaf and Dumb	1
Not Classified	14

I—REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE CENTRES.

1.—DR. MARY SCOTT, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	ABERTYSSWG	OAKDALE	TRETHOMAS
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	40·4	44·	50·4
Artificially-fed	36·2	44·	19·3
Breast and Artificially-fed..	23·4	12·	30·3

ABERTYSSWG.—This Centre is open for two hours every Wednesday morning. There was a slight decrease in the total attendances for the year, from 824 in 1935 to 683 in 1936, the average attendance per session being 13·93, compared with 17·16 in 1935. The total number on the register at the end of the year was higher, being 93, compared with 83 in 1935. This slight fall in numbers was found in all ages except the under one year group, where there was an increase in the numbers of new cases who attended. Breast-feeding has gone down from 51·5 % to 40·4 %. Practically the whole of the percentage which constitutes the difference between those two figures having been passed over to the percentage of infants who are partly breast and partly bottle-fed, this number having increased from 14·2 % in 1935 to 23·4 % in 1936. The wholly artificially-fed babies shew an increase of slightly under 2 %.

Three children, two of these from the one family, shewed signs of a mild form of rickets. Ten children suffered from dental caries, and all but two had the carious teeth extracted at the Local County Dental Clinic. Three children had enlarged tonsils removed at the Local County Clinic, and one had the operation performed in the Local Hospital.

One child suffering from very severe Ophthalmia Neonatorum was removed to the Royal Gwent Hospital and treated there. The eyes are now perfectly healthy.

A large number of children in this area suffer from Bronchial and Nasal Catarrh.

Four babies under two years and five toddlers, amongst those attending the Centre, suffered from malnutrition. Seven non-nursing and three Nursing Mothers also suffered from this condition.

OAKDALE.—This Centre is open for one whole day once a fortnight. During the year there was a slight decrease in the total number of attendances, from 1181 in 1935 to 1002 in 1936, the average attendance at each session being 41.75, compared with 45.42 in 1935. This decrease in numbers is apparent in all age groups except in the case of New Visits, where numbers under one year increased from 66 to 80, and in the 1 year to 5 years group from 29 to 43. Breast-feeding has also decreased from 67.0 % to 44 %, while Artificial-feeding has increased from 25.8 % to 44 %.

Four children attending this Centre had Carious teeth extracted at the Local County Dental Clinic, and one had an operation for enlarged tonsils and adenoids. The incidence of Bronchial Catarrh and Nasal Catarrh in this area is lower than in most parts of Monmouthshire.

Five babies and twenty toddlers were found to be suffering from Malnutrition. The latter figure is very high. Nine non-nursing and two Nursing Mothers suffered from Malnutrition.

One infant was brought to the Centre when two weeks old, suffering from severe Congenital talipes. It was seen the following week by the Orthopædic Specialist and is progressing satisfactorily under manipulative treatment.

TRETHOMAS.—This Centre is open one day weekly. The numbers attending here, as in the other two Centres, have decreased during the year, except in the re-visits of the one year to five year group, where the figures are 773, compared to 697 for 1935. The total attendances in 1936 were 2190, compared to 2641 in 1935, while the average attendance per session was 46.59 compared to 56.19 in 1936. This is the only Centre of the three in which the percentage of wholly breast-fed babies has increased. The percentage of breast-fed babies has increased from 40.4 % in 1935 to 50.4 % in 1936, while the wholly artificially-fed babies have decreased in numbers from 31.8 % in 1935 to 19.3 % in 1936. This may be accounted for by the fact that the amount of unemployment in this area diminished very considerably during the year 1936 and many of the Mothers, no doubt, were able to buy better food for themselves than in the previous year. Six children attending this Centre suffered from a mild form of rickets, the number being two less than in the previous year. Three children attending this Centre had nævi and two of them received treatment in the Skin Department of the Royal Gwent Hospital and were completely cured.

Seven babies under two years old, and eight between the ages of two and five, suffered from Malnutrition, while in four non-nursing and two Nursing Mothers this condition was also present.

GENERAL.—It will be noted that in all three Centres the attendance is lower than in the previous year. It is difficult to account for this. The slight fall in the birth rate would hardly make any appreciable difference. Perhaps the chief cause has been the very wet weather during the past summer and winter. There have been several heavy falls of snow in these areas, too, during the winter, and snow, much more than either rain or cold, has the effect of greatly reducing the number of children brought to the Clinic.

The Malnutrition amongst Mothers, and amongst all ages under five, is not great in these areas, with the exception of the number amongst the toddlers at Oakdale. This is not due to unemployment, as most of the fathers of those children are working, but may possibly be due to the very large families which one seems to notice in this area. It is quite a common thing for a man in this district to be supporting, on a collier's wage, anything from six to nine or ten children under fourteen years of age. The consequence is that when a new baby comes along the toddler gets very little milk and seems just to share the food of the older children. In all areas this Malnutrition, especially in the younger children, is increased by lack of proper sleep. It is the most difficult thing in the world to impress on certain mothers the very great importance of sufficient sleep for young children, and it is quite a common thing, especially amongst the older mothers, to hear of the baby retiring to rest at the same time as the adult members of the family. In Abertysswg we find this Malnutrition associated with very early dental caries, mainly due to a strong attachment in this district to a certain type of milk food, which the various Medical Officers at this Centre have tried hard to break. Up to the present their efforts unfortunately have not always been successful. It is not an uncommon occurrence for children of about sixteen months to two years in this area to have extractions for Carious teeth.

The incidence of Bronchial Catarrh is still high, especially in the Abertysswg and Trethomas areas, and is the most frequent type of childish ailment treated at these Centres.

All necessitous patients were helped with supplies of Milk food, and practically all necessitous nursing mothers were given a weekly allowance of Milk food to try to enable them to continue breast-feeding. Malnutrition in the mothers, as in the case of the children, has been found to be due rather to wrong and irregular feeding, to insufficient sleep, and to Dental Caries, rather than to actual lack of food.

Drugs, chiefly cough mixtures, tonics, and 'grey tablets' were given rather freely at the Centres. In the more serious types of illness patients are always referred to their family Doctors. Many of the children attending these Centres continue to benefit by the treatment received from the Orthopædic Specialist, the Eye Specialist, and the Nose and Throat Specialist, and mothers, as well as children, from the Dental Treatment carried out by the County Dental Officers.

2.—DR. MARY GORDON, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	ROGERSTONE	CAERLEON	CALDICOT	NEWPORT
	%	%	%	%
Breast-fed	47·	53·5	48·8	25
Artificially-fed	38·8	45·3	48·8	60
Breast and Artificially-fed..	14·2	1·20	2·4	15

ROGERSTONE.—This Clinic is held fortnightly, on a Friday forenoon. The figures for attendance, with the exception of those for toddlers, show a decrease all round, compared with those for 1935—42 new cases under 1 year attended, instead of 46 ; 7 new toddlers as against 11 last year ; 466 re-visits under 1 year compared with 522 ; 427 re-visits from 1–5 years as against 387 the previous year. The total re-visits under 1 year were 508 compared with 568, and 434 toddlers attended, instead of 398 the previous year. The total attendances were 942 as against 966 in 1935. The average attendance at each session was 36·23—in 1935 it was 37·15.

Though the total figures for attendance show a decrease, it is satisfactory to note that the toddlers have attended well, as this shows an appreciation by the mother of the efforts made at the Centre to promote the physical and mental well-being of the pre-school child, and paves the way for what we hope may be established in Monmouthshire in the not-too-distant future—nursery schools and nursery classes.

Breast-feeding figures were slightly lower than last year—47% compared with 56% in 1935. There has been more irregular work among the fathers of babies attending the Centre this year—with a consequent increase in the amount of lactational debility. The majority of the babies were healthy—only one showed malnutrition. 2 cases of facial eczema attended and were referred to the Skin Department, Royal Gwent Hospital. 3 cases of nævis were also referred to the Skin Department, Royal Gwent Hospital—one of these was a large subcutaneous nævus which was removed surgically.

Only 1 case of mild Rickets was seen, and referred to the Orthopædic Clinic for bowing of the fibiæ—splints for night wear were advised.

1 case of cervical adenitis was sent to the Tuberculosis Physician and treated by him.

The majority of the toddlers who attended had come to the Centre as babies and now continued to attend for supervision, either alone or along with a baby brother or sister. The general health of the 1–5 year old group showed an improvement this year—especially regarding anæmia and bronchial catarrh. The 2 orthopædic cases—kyphosis with scoliosis and semitendinosus bursa, returned during year from the Orthopædic Hospital showing very satisfactory results.

4 toddlers had dental appointments and 6 had tonsillectomy performed at the County Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic.

2 cases of Malnutrition were seen and assisted with tonics and cod liver oil.

The chief ailments of the Nursing Mothers who attended were anæmia and lactational debility—to counteract these free food was given where necessary and iron tonics. 1 case of Malnutrition was seen—not due to under-nourishment.

Slightly more free food was given away than last year.

CAERLEON.—This Centre is open on alternate Wednesday afternoons for the mothers and babies from Caerleon and the surrounding rural district.

The attendances all round show an increase this year compared with last year's figure—100 on the register at the end of the year compared with 99 in 1935; 366 total visits of babies as against 354 last year, and 268 toddler visits compared with 202. The total attendances were 634 compared with 586 in 1935, and the average attendance per session rose to 25.36 from 21.38 in 1935.

The babies were a particularly healthy lot, though the figure for breast-feeding was not very high—53.5 %. The chief ailments were minor digestive and teething upsets, and no evidence of malnutrition or rickets was seen.

The majority of the toddlers who attended regularly belonged to the 1–2 year group—next came the 2–3 year-olds, and thereafter the numbers dwindled, as the age-group rose. This fact may be partly explained by the large number of 3 and 4 year-olds found in the Infant School, which is a very satisfactory up-to-date building providing satisfactory facilities for the mental and physical care of the 3–5 year-old child.

1 case of mild rickets was found in the 2–3 year-old group and one case of severe malnutrition due to under-nourishment.

The chief complaints of the Nursing Mothers were lactational debility (5–6 %), constipation and anæmia. 4 had dental appointments. 1 case of Malnutrition was seen but it was not due to under-nourishment.

9 expectant mothers attended and were referred to the Ante-natal Clinic at Newport.

Slightly more free food was given away than last year.

My thanks are due to the ladies of the local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee who attended regularly at the Centre throughout the year and gave valuable assistance.

CALDICOT.—This Centre is held on Tuesday afternoons and is attended by mothers and babies from Caldicot and the surrounding rural district.

The figures for attendance show a slight decrease all round compared with 1935—137 on the register as compared with 143 in 1935 ; 821 total visits under 1 year as against 835 in 1935 and 973 total visits of 1–5 year-olds compared with 1093 in 1935. The total attendances were 1794 as against 1928, and the average attendance for session was 36·61 compared with 40·16 in 1935. The figure for breast-feeding is higher this year—48 %—due to the fact that most of the new babies attending were the first babies of young, healthy mothers. The babies were very fit on the whole—2 showed malnutrition due to under-nourishment, and were helped with free food, cod liver oil, etc. 1 case of congenital heart attended but only survived 2 months. 1 case of club feet was referred to the Orthopædic Clinic and had manipulative treatment and massage—1 case of hare lip was operated on successfully. The majority of the other complaints were bronchitis, bronchial catarrh and teething troubles. One set of twins attended and did well.

The majority of the toddlers who attended came with a baby brother or sister and belonged to the 1–2 and 2–3 year-old group. Several were under weight, due more to receiving the wrong type of food or to mal-assimilation of the right type, than to under-nourishment. Threadworms were the chief complaint of the toddlers and were difficult to get rid of in some cases. Bronchial catarrh and digestive disorders were the other troubles. Tonsillectomy was done in 3 cases, and dental appointments were given to 4 toddlers. Mild rachitic bowing of the legs occurred in 3 cases and was helped with cod liver oil and attention to diet and hygiene.

Lactational debility occurred in 12 of the Nursing Mothers who attended (roughly 10 %) but no malnutrition was observed. Constipation, anæmia and pyorrhœa were responsible for most of the other troubles of the Nursing Mother.

16 expectant mothers were referred to the Ante-natal Clinic at Chepstow.

Free food was given in roughly the same proportion as last year.

The ladies of the local Maternity and Child Welfare Committee attended during the session and did excellent work.

NEWPORT.—This Centre was open on alternate Wednesday afternoons and was attended by mothers and babies from High Cross, Bettws, Llanwern, Nash and Goldcliffe.

The attendance throughout the year was small, partly owing to particularly wet weather conditions necessitating difficulty in travelling. 24 new babies attended, making 171 re-visits and 15 toddlers made 83 re-visits. The average attendance per session was 12·73. The figure for breast-feeding was particularly low—30 %, but most of the new babies who attended were already on bottle feeds.

The babies were fit on the whole—one case of malnutrition, due to under-nourishment attended and was greatly improved by the giving of suitable Milk food and cod liver oil. 2 cases of mild Rickets were seen and advised *re* diet and hygiene.

The toddlers were very fit, reporting chiefly because of minor ailments, dental caries, etc. One severe case of Genu Valgum was sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital for special irons. The attendance of the toddlers was distributed fairly evenly throughout the age-group periods from 1–5 years, as toddlers in the country districts are not sent to school at an early age owing to long distances to travel to school.

Of the Nursing Mothers who attended, four showed lactational debility and were helped with dried food, etc.—most of them were the wives of agricultural labourers to whom unemployment benefit is not given so freely. No cases of malnutrition due to under-nourishment were seen.

No expectant mothers attended.

In proportion to the smaller attendance, less free food was given away than last year.

3.—DR. EVELYN D. OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	PONTYPOOL	RUMNEY
	%	%
Breast-fed	55.2	46
Breast and Artificially-fed..	23.6	24
Artificially-fed	21.2	30

PONTYPOOL.—During the year the attendance at this Centre increased from 45.25 to 52.06 and the medical officer is now in attendance at both the morning and afternoon sessions instead of only in the afternoon as hitherto. The percentage of breast-feeding increased from 45.5 to 55.2, while the purely artificial feeding remained the same as in 1935. Thus it appears that more of the mothers who started breast-feeding were able to continue for the whole nine months than in the previous year. This corresponds with the finding that there was less malnutrition among the mothers, about ten nursing and five non-nursing mothers being considered malnourished. It is quite certain that some of these mothers would have been unable to breast-feed their babies had it not been for the extra nourishment provided at the Centre.

The attendance of toddlers was quite good—much the same as in 1935. It was noticed that while about one-seventh of the infants were under weight, nearly one-third of the toddlers came into this category. No severe rickets was seen but several early mild cases were treated, and one showed sufficient bowing of the tibiae to necessitate special orthopædic treatment. A case of kyphosis also was sent to the Orthopædic Clinic. Several appointments were made for the removal of defective teeth and tonsils. As in previous years a limited supply of simple drugs was used. More free food was given than in 1935.

RUMNEY.—The attendance at this Clinic continues to increase. The average rose from 27.6 in 1935 to 32 in 1936, and for the last quarter of the year the Centre was open every Thursday afternoon instead of fortnightly as it had been previously. The percentage of breast-feeding increased from 25 to 46; the purely artificial-feeding dropped correspondingly, the amount of combined breast and artificial-feeding remaining much the same. The only mother who suffered from malnutrition was given free food but was unable to continue breast-feeding her baby. About three per cent. of the infants were badly underweight. There was a good attendance of toddlers, about one-fifth of whom were underweight. Their commonest ailments were defective teeth and tonsils. Four cases of mild rickets were seen. Few drugs and very little free food are given at this Centre.

MONMOUTH.—This Centre is held one half-day a month. The attendance was a little less than the previous year. There were 35 new patients, with an average attendance of 6.58 per session. In 1935 the corresponding numbers were 39 and 10.2. Ten of the patients were primiparæ, ten had attended the clinic during a previous pregnancy, and two during two previous pregnancies. Three patients left the district before their confinements. Five patients who were needing extra nourishment were given a free supply of milk. Two patients were referred to the Venereal Diseases Clinic. Of nine patients suffering from dental caries only three availed themselves of the opportunity offered for treatment, although two or three had extractions later, after the babies were born. Four cases of malnutrition were seen.

4.—DR. TERESA M. O'RIORDAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	NEWBRIDGE	PONTYMOILE	PONTNEWYDD
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	47·0	44·0	35·2
Breast and Artificially-fed ..	20·0	16·0	16·2
Artificially-fed	33·0	40·0	48·6

NEWBRIDGE.—This Centre is open for one whole day weekly—Monday morning and afternoon. The Medical Officer attending both sessions. The figures for attendance during the year show a decrease, but this was chiefly due to climatic conditions, not due to lack of interest on the part of the mothers. 267 were on the register this year compared with 307 the previous year. New cases under one year were 108 compared with 171 in 1935. The re-visits under 1 year were 2033 as against 2726 in 1935, but the re-visits from 1–5 years increased from 1013 in 1935 to 1259 in 1936. The total attendance in 1935 was 3921, and in 1936, 3402. The average attendance at each session was 70·87 in 1936 compared with 81·68 in 1935.

BABIES. The figures for breast-feeding show an increase, which is always gratifying. The percentage has increased from 43% the previous year to 47% this year. The percentage of the partially breast-fed has decreased from 21% in 1935 to 20·0% this year, but the percentage of the artificially-fed infants is lower—it has dropped from 35·3% the previous year to 33·0% this year.

TODDLERS. It is pleasing to record that the mothers are bringing these little ones more regularly to the Centre. The majority of these were not quite up to the normal standard of nutrition. An improvement was noticed if their attendance was regular, and the mother followed carefully the advice given—in necessitous cases a suitable preparation, such as malt and oil, Virol, Roboleine or Aberdeen Emulsion, was given—in all other the mother provided the preparation advised.

Number of Toddlers examined at the Centre, 104. Of these the nutritional investigation revealed :

Nutrition excellent	6·7%
„ Normal	40·4%
„ set below Normal	46·2%
„ Bad	6·7%

During the year 5 children were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, 5 to the Tuberculosis Officer, 4 to the Eye Clinic, 8 to the Aural Clinic, 5 to the Dental Clinic, and 1 to the V.D. Department of the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Twenty mothers were advised to attend the Dental Clinic for extractions, but only 15 availed themselves of the opportunity offered them. 3 mothers were referred to the Tuberculosis Officer and were kept under observation by him, and 4 were referred to the Ante-Natal Centre.

The usual simple drugs, stocked at the Centre, were prescribed when necessary for the common ailments, but their use was restricted as usual, and free food was only given for medical reasons.

This year, again, I wish to thank the Voluntary Helpers who attend so very regularly and show such unfailing interest in the Centre.

PONTYMOILE.—This Centre is open for half a day weekly, when the Medical Officer attends. It seems an area partly rural and partly industrial—in some cases the mothers have a long distance to come to the Centre, and so the attendance is poor if the weather is bad. In spite of unfavourable weather conditions the total attendance has gone up from 860 the previous year to 992 in 1936, and the average attendance at each session has increased from 17·9 in 1935 to 20·24 in 1936. The total attendances of Nursing Mothers have increased from 308 the previous year to 336 this year. All ante-natal cases are referred to the Centre at Pontypool. Four mothers were offered dental appointments; other mothers would attend the Dental Clinic for extractions, but refuse, as they are unable to obtain dentures, owing to financial difficulties.

There is a slight decrease in the percentage of breast-fed babies—this was 45% in 1935; it is 44% this year. The percentage of breast and artificially-fed infants has decreased slightly too, from 18·3% in 1935 to 16% this year; but the percentage of the artificially-fed infants has increased from 36·7% in 1935 to 40% in 1936. A few mothers were granted free food, for medical reasons—to enable them to continue breast-feeding.

The toddlers were brought more regularly to the Centre. A record of their nutrition was kept and shewed:—

Nutrition	excellent..	..	13·6%
„	Normal ..	..	51·3%
„	slightly below Normal		32·4%
„	Bad ..	..	2·7%

All necessitous cases were helped with suitable preparations. One child was referred for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, two children were offered Dental appointments, and one was referred to the Orthopædic Centre. Simple drugs were prescribed for minor ailments.

PONTNEWYDD.—This Centre is open Tuesday afternoons and the Medical Officer attends each week. There is a slight decrease in the number on the register for 1936; it was 142 last year and 139 this year; but the number of the re-visits to the Clinic is much higher. The total attendance in 1936 is 1321 compared with 1092 in 1935, and the average attendance has increased from 22·75 last year to 26·95 this year.

There is a decrease in the percentage of breast-feeding. The percentage for 1936 is 35·2% compared with 40·6% in 1935, and the percentage of the partly breast-fed has decreased too, from 23·4% in 1935 to 16% in 1936—and the percentage of the artificially-fed infants has increased from 36·0% to 48·6% this year. Many mothers, though very willing, were unable to breast-feed their infants, and many had already weaned their infant before coming to the Centre. Some mothers were given free food, for medical reasons, to enable them to continue feeding their infant naturally.

There is an increase in the number of new cases of mothers to the Centre, also in the number of re-visits, and the total attendances have increased from 304 the previous year to 366 this year. These mothers showed a genuine interest in learning how to care for their children, and came not spasmodically but each week to the Centre. All expectant mothers were referred to the Ante-Natal Centre, either at Newport or Pontypool. Five mothers were referred for Dental treatment.

The toddlers were brought as often as the mothers could manage it. Of the number of these toddlers examined at the Centre, the nutritional investigation shewed:—

Nutrition	Excellent ..	..	7·0%
„	Normal ..	..	49·0%
„	slightly below Normal		42·0%
„	Bad..	..	2·0%

Many of these cases were granted free preparations to enable them to regain the normal standard of nutrition. Three children were referred to the Dental Clinic—two for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, and two children to the Orthopædic Centre.

5.—DR. ANNIE C. ROBERTS, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	ABERBARGOED	MARKHAM	RISCA
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	40	40	38
Breast and Artificially-fed ..	16.5	9.5	22
Artificially-fed	43.5	50.5	40

ABERBARGOED.—The average attendance has fallen considerably, being about 11% lower than in 1935. The number of toddlers was about the same as previously but there was a decrease in the number of new cases under 1 year, 82 attending in 1936 as compared with 102 in 1935.

The amount of food given free was about the same as the year before and was mostly given on medical grounds.

Drugs at this Centre were very considerably used as most of the mothers were in very poor circumstances. Simple tonics, laxatives and ointments for skin complaints were used freely, with benefit to both mothers and infants.

Ante-Natal cases are not dealt with here but are referred to New Tredegar and, in view of the fact that the distance between Aberbargoed and New Tredegar is small, more Aberbargoed expectant mothers should avail themselves of the services of the Ante-Natal Clinic.

The attendance of toddlers at this Centre is very good, and attendances of children aged 1–5 years make up one-third of the total number of visits.

Catarrh, nasal, bronchial, and middle ear is exceptionally prevalent at this Clinic, and a high percentage of toddlers are referred for removal of tonsils and adenoids. About 20% of toddlers were referred for extractions and those cases all benefited greatly by dental treatment. A very high percentage of the mothers required dental treatment for caries or pyorrhœa or both, but some of the cases unfortunately refuse to attend often enough to complete the treatment.

The condition of the mothers here is less satisfactory than at some of the other Centres, and there are more genuine failures to breast-feed here, owing to anæmie and debility. With the aid of Colact and iron tonics some of the mothers have successfully breast-fed their infants whom they would otherwise have had to wean.

MARKHAM.—The average attendance remains very much the same, being 21 in 1935 and 20.4 in 1936.

Very little free food is given here, and those to whom it is given are mostly from Argoed and Hollybush, and not from Markham itself, where unemployment is not so bad as in other districts.

Drugs are used rather freely and are much appreciated by the mothers. Those most employed are tonics, laxatives, and sodium citrate, the latter being of great use in cases of indigestion and flatulence in the younger bottle-fed babies.

Ante-Natal cases go to Tredegar but, owing to the distance, very few from this area attend the Centre.

The number of toddlers attending here is smaller than at other Centres. A large number of children aged 3 to 5 years are in school and do not continue their attendance at the Centre. But the attendance of children aged 1–3 years is quite satisfactory.

This Clinic is still not as well attended as it ought to be. The rooms are central, well heated and well lighted, and the people of Markham should make more use of the Centre.

Malnutrition is not marked here, and the condition of children aged 9 months to 2 years is better here than at Aberbargoed. It would seem that the percentage of unsatisfactory toddlers is high here but that is due to the fact that children aged 3–5 years are rarely brought here unless there is something wrong with them, and the treatment used is more curative than preventative.

Breast-feeding figures are much too low but, apart from constipation, this does not seem to affect the health of the infants unduly.

RISCA.—The attendance at this Centre was again excellent, and has risen 2%, being 75.2 for 1936. The number of new cases of infants and toddlers had both increased.

The amount of food given was not large in proportion to the attendance, and the majority of the mothers here are grateful for assistance given.

As the size of the Clinic is large drugs are used extensively, especially those for treatment of bronchial catarrh, which is very prevalent.

Ante-Natal cases go to the Newport Centre and the majority attend well, but the distance prevents regular attendance amongst the poorer mothers and also amongst those unable to stand the bus journey owing to ill-health.

The attendance of toddlers here is excellent, some of the children coming at intervals right up to school age, and those commencing school before the age of 5 very often still continue their visits to the Centre.

The condition of children and mothers here is quite satisfactory and breast-feeding figures should be much higher than they are. Some of the younger mothers use any pretext for weaning, and the midwives do not seem to encourage breast-feeding as much as they should. Out of 186 infants (babies age 1 to 9 months) 30 were, at the commencement of their attendance, unsatisfactory, but that does not mean to say that they remained so during the year, and many undersized and premature infants were normal in weight by the time they were 9 to 12 months old. The average weight at birth appears to be lower than formerly but the smaller sized infant often gains better, and is heavier later on, than the infant who was heavier at the start.

Respiratory catarrh of one kind and another is very prevalent here, and 38 children were found to have tonsils and adenoids markedly enlarged.

Several sets of twins have attended—in one case one twin was very much more delicate than the other and was referred, by its own doctor, to hospital, where after observation it had an operation for pyloric stenosis.

Thanks are due to the three voluntary helpers who have attended regularly and have been of great assistance.

6.—DR. W. BOWEN OWEN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

NEW TREDEGAR.

Breast-fed	Breast and Bottle-fed	Bottle-fed
28%	35%	37%

No. reviewed at end of year	..	150.
In satisfactory condition	..	80%
In unsatisfactory condition	..	20%

This year the number of breast-fed babies has decreased, the percentage being 28%, as against 37%.

The number of babies in satisfactory condition has increased, the percentage being 80%, as against 25% last year.

CHILDREN AGED ONE TO FIVE.

No. reviewed at the end of the year . . . 122.

In satisfactory condition . . . 44%
In unsatisfactory condition . . . 56%

The average attendance during the year was somewhat less, being 46·9 as against 50·2 for the preceding year. Inclement weather was responsible for this, as on a few Mondays it was almost impossible to take a baby out of doors.

The analysis shows a slight improvement in the condition of the children, although throat and bronchial troubles were much in evidence.

Milk foods and medicaments are still found to be of great value to those not showing the desired progress.

Amongst the mothers, Anæmia and debility are features quickly observed. This partly accounts for the diminished percentage of breast-fed babies.

7.—DR. WILLIAM PANES, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	CWM	BLAINA
Breast-fed	45%	52%
Breast and Artificially-fed	20%	12%
Artificially-fed	28%	36%

CWM.—The number on the register at this Centre at the end of the year was 214. The average attendance at each session was 36·5; this shows a slight fall over the previous year when each session averaged 39·10. This fall can be accounted for by the severe weather experienced in the last 3 months of the year.

The percentage of infants wholly fed on the breast was 45; a fall of 7% over the previous year. The percentage fed on breast supplemented by artificial feeds remained at 20, while the percentage artificially-fed increased from 28% for 1935 to 35% for 1936.

The number of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years who attended the Centre was 35.

This number leaves much to be desired, since these children, apart from being seen by their family doctor in case of actual illness, receive no medical supervision until they commence school.

The incidence of malnutrition in infants up to 1 year of age was practically negligible. A few cases showed some clinical signs of under-nourishment, but in all cases this was due not to insufficient but to improper feeding. With reference to the incidence of malnutrition in toddlers, this again was small, although a number (approx. 20%) were undersized.

8 cases of rickets were seen, all of slight degree, and none requiring Orthopædic treatment. One case of tuberculosis of the knee joint was seen and referred to the T. B. Officer.

The condition of mothers attending this Clinic was very satisfactory, only 2 showing signs of subnormal nutrition.

BLAINA.—This Centre is held weekly, with a doctor in attendance at the afternoon session. The number on the register at the end of the year was 307. The average attendance per session was 52·04; this figure is slightly less than that for 1935.

52% of infants up to 9 months of age were entirely breast-fed. This shows little change over 1935. The percentage of infants fed on breast combined with bottle feeding was 12. The percentage fed on artificial foods was 36. These figures again show little change over the previous year.

13 infants under 1 year of age showed signs of malnutrition, but the majority improved on a suitable and sufficient diet. In necessitous cases dried milk foods were provided free of cost. Where the under-nourishment was thought to be due to lactational deficiency, a dried milk food was supplied to the mother in order to improve the quality and quantity of the breast milk. Thus many mothers were enabled to breast-feed their infants.

A pleasing feature of the work at this Centre was an increase in the number of toddlers who attended: 129 for 1936 as against 94 for 1935. However, 25% of these were found to be under-nourished. The degree of under-nourishment was in the majority of cases slight. In necessitous cases these children were supplied with dried milk, cod liver oil, or similar nutritive preparations.

In 25 cases mothers who were nursing their infants were found to be under-nourished in some degree. These were supplied, free of cost in necessitous cases, with milk preparations. A large number of mothers were treated for the anæmia and debility which so often occurs after pregnancy.

8.—DR. B. L. MacQUILLAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed 55·5% Partially Breast-fed 12·7% Artificially-fed 31·8%

BLAENAVON.—The Clinic is held for one session weekly. The average attendance for the year ending 1936 was quite good for a half-day Clinic, 39·67%—considering there was a severe epidemic of Whooping Cough, and a milder outbreak of Chicken Pox, which affected adversely the child population of Blaenavon, during the latter three months of the year.

The parents of those children suffering from these infections were advised and warned *re* attending and spreading the diseases.

Among the total number of babies and toddlers who attended during the year, there was seven cases of bad malnutrition, although a very considerable number (55) were found to be nutritionally below the normal standard.

In all these cases advice was given, and in necessitous cases additional nourishment in the way of free dried milk and Cod Liver Oil preparations was allowed.

Medicines and ointments were dispensed with the same restrictions and limitations as in previous years. Of these, the chest preparations were mostly in demand—considering the prevalence of Whooping Cough and its resultant bronchial complications.

The area which this Clinic serves is scattered and very hilly, and praise is due to those mothers who endeavoured to attend.

9.—DR. H. V. M. JONES, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

NANTYGLO.—This Centre is held once a week on a half day.

In comparison with the previous year the number on the register has declined from 208 to 177 and the average attendance from 35·73 to 30·14 per session.

Forty-four per cent. of the babies under nine months of age were wholly breast-fed. Twenty-two per cent. were partially breast-fed and partially bottle-fed. Thirty-four per cent. were bottle-fed.

Fifteen babies under one year of age and twenty-four toddlers were under the average weight. Smallness of physique and assimilation difficulty accounted for the condition of these children for the most part. Four babies under one year and two toddlers were suffering from mild rickets. Eleven cases of otorrhœa were referred to the Blaina Aural Clinic for treatment.

Twelve mothers received treatment for debility and, in the case of ten who were nursing, colact was provided gratuitously.

Children and mothers were kept under observation as continuously as possible at the weekly Clinic sessions, and, when needed, advice was given.

Milk and cod liver oil preparations were dispensed and payment for them was made according to economic circumstances.

10.—DR. AUGUSTA S. MONRO, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed 37·1% Breast and Artificially-fed 29·3% Artificially-fed 33·4%

PENGAM.—The figures for this year are very gratifying, showing an increase in all phases of infant welfare work, pointing to considerable appreciation expressed and a more clinically minded mother developing, especially amongst the younger primiparæ. The total number of attendances during the year 1936 increased from 2490 to 2720, and the average attendance at each session increased from 51·87 to 57·87.

The general standard of nutrition of the younger mothers is good, and that of all mothers and children would compare favourably with any other Clinic area in the county. There is some malnutrition amongst the toddlers, due to the fact that many, after one year of age, do not attend the Clinic so regularly and only return after a sharp loss of weight following a cold or cough inadequately treated at home.

The facilities offered and the benefits obtained in the elimination of oral and dental Sepsis, with its sequelæ, are appreciated to a great extent.

Medication is carried out as in former years. The most common complaints were teething troubles and their complications—gastro-enteritis, bronchitis and dermal infections. With a little care and advice most of these have been cleared up successfully. Free food has been given as in former years, purely on medical grounds, only in definite cases of malnutrition and under-nourishment.

One of the most gratifying points is that the percentage of completely breast-fed babies has increased greatly, and this year exceeds the percentage of completely bottle-fed babies.

11.—DR. PHILOMENE R. WHITAKER, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	CRUMLIN	USK	CWMBRAN
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	55.4	60.5	62.5
Breast and Artificially-fed ..	13.9	13.1	12.5
Artificially-fed	30.7	26.3	25.0

CRUMLIN.—This Centre is held once a week and shows steady progress. The number on the register at the end of the year was 217, an increase on last year's figure of 198. The average attendance per session was 37.18, a further increase, having been 31.25 in 1935.

The total attendances have risen from 1500 to 1785. The percentage of Breast-feeding = 55.4%, which is encouraging when the figure was only 46.4% last year.

The toddlers attend very well at this Clinic=605 attendances during the year, and amongst these there were 12 cases of malnutrition. These were treated and supplied with extra nourishment, either as dried or fresh milk or as cod liver oil, etc.

The general physique of the mothers and children is not good. Consequently in this district free food was supplied in a large number of cases. Drugs consist of the usual tonics, cough mixtures, etc.

USK.—This Centre continues to improve. The number on the register at the end of the year was 117, as compared to 100 in 1935. The average attendance per session has risen from 32.12 to 39.62, while the total attendances amounted to 951.

The percentage of Breast-fed babies remains practically the same, being 60.5%.

Free food was given in many cases at this Clinic for, although it is not a distressed area, many families have moved to the surrounding districts from the distressed areas, and the farm Labourers' earnings are often inadequate for the support of large families.

The total number of toddlers attending=43 as compared to 46 last year. Of these seven shewed evidence of malnutrition and rickets. Drugs are given for minor ailments, including aperients, cough mixtures, tonics.

The Ante-Natal cases are referred to Pontypool, but many cases attend here for supervision and advice. 73 cases were examined during the year.

The improvement in this Centre during recent years is very marked, and is due to a large extent to the keenness, enthusiasm and tact of the Health Visitor. On her suggestion the Clinic is now held on Market Day, thus enabling many mothers to attend who would otherwise have no means of conveyance.

The Voluntary Helpers continue to give us their loyal support, and my thanks are due to them for their co-operation.

CWMBRAN.—The attendance at this Clinic has risen to such an extent that it was found necessary to hold a whole-day session once a week, instead of half-day session as in 1935.

The total attendances for the year=2295 as compared to 1851 last year. The average attendance per session was 48.82 as against 38.5, while the number on the register was 232, also an increase, having been 193 in 1935.

The percentage of Breast-feeding has improved, being 62·5%, a very satisfactory figure considering this is a "distressed area" in which many of the mothers are of poor physique.

Total attendance of toddlers remains good, being 827 as compared to 643 in 1935; of these, 15 shewed signs of malnutrition and were given extra milk foods.

Many of these toddlers are undersized possibly from poor parental care and lack of sleep. Quite frequently one is told that they do not go to bed until 8 or 9 o'clock at night, and that they will not eat their food.

Of the 113 Nursing Mothers, 22 showed some degree of debility and anæmia.

Expectant mothers are referred to Newport Ante-Natal Clinic, but many are supervised at this Centre. Drugs prescribed take the form of simple tonics, purgatives or cough mixtures. Free food has been given in about 50% of the cases attending here, for as a result of prolonged unemployment many are in a debilitated state of health.

12.—DR. ALICE S. M. DEWAR, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	BLACKWOOD	CROSS KEYS	YNYSDDU
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	38	33	48
Breast and Artificially-fed ..	9	17	12
Artificially-fed	53	50	40

BLACKWOOD.—This Centre is held once a week. The number of infants on the register is practically the same as that for the previous year—being 385 compared with 386; but the total attendance has dropped from 2741 to 2591, and the average attendance at each session from 59·58 to 53·97. Unfortunately, the percentage of Breast-feeding is still decreasing, being now only 38%. The amount of combined breast and artificial-feeding at the centre is very low, being only 9%. The artificial feeding has increased to 53%. This is disappointing, but is partly due to the fact that many of the infants are being artificially fed when they are first brought to the Centre. The babies on the whole are very fit, but the toddlers are not a healthy lot. A large number of toddlers attended and many of them were considerably underweight. A fairly large amount of simple drugs, such as aperients, tonics and cough mixtures was prescribed, and a considerable amount of cod liver oil in various forms was given, especially to the toddlers. The expectant mothers who attended were referred to Oakdale Ante-Natal Clinic. A fairly large proportion of the Nursing Mothers suffered from anæmia and general debility. Many also suffered from dental caries, and most of those took advantage of the opportunity of attending the dental clinic.

CROSS KEYS.—This Centre is open for one half-day weekly. The number of infants on the register has increased from 92 to 101. The number of total attendances is 1205 compared with 1127 for the previous year. The average attendance at each session is 25·10 compared with 23·47. Although the numbers are not quite as large as those of my other Centres, this one is most encouraging as practically no free food is given here, and only a very limited supply of simple drugs. The mothers mostly attend for advice alone.

The amount of Breast-feeding has decreased from 37% to 33%, and the amount of combined breast and artificial feeding has decreased from 20% to 17%. The percentage of

artificial feeding has increased from 43 to 50. There were a few very delicate babies at this Centre, but apart from these the health of the infants was very good. Not many toddlers attended, and on the whole they were healthy. The expectant mothers who attended were referred to Newport Ante-Natal Clinic.

YNYSDDU.—This is a half-day Centre, and is held once a week. There is very little change in the number of babies on the register, there being 187 compared with 189 for the previous year. The total attendance has fallen from 1813 to 1740 and the average attendance at each session from 37·77 to 36·25. This Centre had previously a higher percentage of breast-feeding than my other Centres, and it is the only one which has shown no decrease, the amount still being 48%. There has been a slight fall in the percentage of the combined breast and artificial feeding from 14 to 12, with a corresponding increase in the artificial feeding from 38% to 40%. Although there is still room for decided improvement, these figures compared with those of my other Centres are encouraging, as the mothers attending here are not on the whole any healthier than those of my other Centres. The toddlers have attended more regularly this year. Many of those were underweight and their condition was improved by cod liver oil in various forms.

Twenty-eight expectant mothers attended and they were referred to Newport Ante-Natal Clinic.

13.—DR. B. L. MACQUILLAN, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed 61·2%. Partially Breast-fed 3·3%. Artificially-fed 35·5%.

PANTEG.—This Clinic is open every Thursday for a morning session only. The average attendance for the year 1936 compared favourably with those of former years.

In this Clinic, it is gratifying to note the attendance of toddlers who, at each session, probably outnumber the number of one year olds. Unfortunately, it is the general tendency throughout the County to neglect the frequent medical supervision which is available, when the child begins to toddle. Here, however, it is quite frequent to have children, who attend the infant schools, frequenting the Clinic for treatment and advice.

The percentage of Breast-fed children is relatively high—probably one of the highest in the County—61·2%. There were few cases of malnutrition and only three cases of definite marasmus during the year. This fact is probably accountable for by the relative absence of unemployment and distress in this particular area. The mothers on the whole were well nourished.

The usual quota of children were referred to the special Clinics, *e.g.*, orthopædic, vision, etc.

As in former years, medicaments and the distribution of free food were dispensed only to necessitous cases.

14.—DR. E. M. GRIFFITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abercarn Urban District.

ABERCARN.—The attendance at the Centre has kept up remarkably well. Average attendance at each session, 81·23.

The year 1936 has again been a year of depression in this district, although the last three months shewed some improvement in conditions all round. As a result of the extensive amount of poverty we have found it necessary to supply free food to a large number of children attending the Clinic.

Drugs have never been prescribed at this Clinic to any large extent—about £5 would cover the yearly drug bill.

In Nursing Mothers a good number shewed symptoms of malnutrition and were supplied with free food.

It is a characteristic of all non-nursing mothers in this area that they will supply their offspring with whatever is possible, even if they have to go without themselves. The result is that malnutrition in women attending the Clinic is more frequent than one would think.

With very few exceptions, for the reasons given above, little malnutrition was seen among babies or toddlers. The attendance of toddlers was 82 during the year.

Thanks are due to the devoted workers who give their services voluntarily year after year.

15.—DR. G. W. PARRY, Abergavenny.

ABERGAVENNY.—This Centre is open on Tuesday each week, this being the market day, when people living in outlying districts come into town. The Centre is becoming more used by these people. Inability to obtain free food fairly easily has made no difference to the numbers attending. Little is given but it is essential in some cases, as I know there is not the money to pay for it. Any expectant mothers bringing children to the Centre are strongly urged to make use of the Ante-Natal Clinic.

The chief complaints among the children are referred to the alimentary system, and of these constipation comprised nearly 30% of the cases. Worms, stomatitis, and enteritis were next with about 10% each. Practically all these were due to wrong feeding.

The next commonest group was that of respiratory diseases, practically all of which were bronchitis—chiefly associated with teething. Four cases of congenital heart-disease were seen.

Of skin diseases nearly all were impetigo, with a few cases of scabies, while many cases of otorrhœa and conjunctivitis were treated. The otorrhœa cases were all associated with tonsils and adenoids.

Only one case of marasmus was seen and six of rickets. There were four M.D. cases, one of which, a Mongol, has made amazing progress. Rheumatism is very little seen, and there has been only one case of chorea.

In view of the above the chief commodity dispensed is advice, and the amount of drugs is relatively small—chiefly expectorant and stomachic mixtures.

Feeding is very largely by the breast, but some mothers have to be helped with milk. Some cases that are too frail and poor have to have free Ostermilk. There are several nursing and non-nursing mothers who look very underfed, and I think this number is decreasing in the last six months.

Mothers generally are much more sensible in doing as they are advised, and a pleasing feature is the fact that even at school age many old cases are brought along after school hours for advice.

Some interesting Orthopædic cases have been seen, and I am much indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the prompt way in which these cases have been taken in hand by the expert staff at Newport.

The Nurses attached to this Centre have worked very well and sensibly, and mothers appreciate them very much.

16.—DR. R. J. S. VERITY, Garndiffaith.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	ABERSYCHAN	GARNDIFFAITH	PONTNEWYNYDD
	%	%	%
Breast-fed	62.3	59.2	39.0
Breast and Artificially-fed..	—	—	10.5
Artificially-fed	37.7	40.8	50.5

A good average attendance has been well maintained at all Centres, and the Centres continue to make progress.

Breast-feeding is certainly on the increase and where artificial feeding has had to be resorted to the advice on suitable food is readily accepted.

The number of toddlers has increased, and I find it is the wish of the mothers for the attention given them at the Centres to continue up to school age.

There have been a few cases of malnutrition but I find these to be due to improper feeding, and in some cases the absence of sleep: children not being put to bed early enough.

The work generally has been carried out as in past years, the preventive aspect being uppermost.

17.—DR. T. B. SMITH, Medical Officer of Health, Abertillery Urban District Council.

CENTRE	INFANTS (0-1 year.)					CHILDREN (1-5 years.)			
	No. on Register 31st Dec., 1936	No. of Attendances		No. of Re-visits		Total		Total Attendances all ages	Average Attendance per Session
		New Cases under 1 yr.	New Cases 1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years	Under 1 year	1-5 years		
Abertillery	594	240	21	2250	1093	2490	1114	3604	75.08
Llanhilleth	382	137	17	1528	735	1665	752	2417	50.35
Six Bells	317	118	14	1150	552	1268	566	1834	38.20
Total all Centres	1293	495	52	4928	2380	5423	2432	7855	54.54

A comparison of this table with the same table printed in the reports of previous years shows that the attendances at the Centres are being well maintained. There were 530 births compared with 502 in 1935 and 1242 in 1921.

Rickets decreased again during the year, and the cases examined were of a mild degree with the exception of one child, age one year. It is but fair to point out that this child came from a district outside of Monmouthshire. Under appropriate treatment this case made remarkable progress. The child is still under treatment.

A larger number of babies than usual weighed considerably under the average at birth but appropriate advice *re* feeding, and free milk allowances, did not fail to elicitate a good response, and most of those babies when averaging roughly about six months of age came nearly to the weight-for-age standard, and a few above.

No marked case of under-nourishment came to my notice, but mal-nourishment was not uncommon. In some cases among the toddlers a substantial improvement was brought about when the mothers were allowed a supply of fresh milk and Virol for the child. Tinned milk is still used far too much.

The consumption of fresh milk was encouraged as much as possible. The cost of fresh milk militates greatly against its general use in large families. The local Council endeavoured to initiate a cheap supply of fresh milk for the children under school age on the plan of the "Rhondda Scheme", but for certain reasons this scheme has not yet materialised. The matter is not being allowed to rest, and steps are still being taken to gain this object.

The health of many of the Nursing Mothers has not been up to the standard that I should have liked. Many nursing mothers failed to sustain the breast-feeding of their off-spring in spite of special milk allowance and also extra nourishment granted by the Unemployment Assistance Board. Those babies all had to be fed on one or other of the various milk substitutes kept at the Clinic. The breast-milk in some cases was sufficient in quantity but lacking in quality, as no healthy babies failed absolutely to gain the necessary average weekly increment in weight. When taken off the breast and put on milk foods they gained well. In many other mothers the breast-milk dried up completely within a month after the birth of the child.

While I would not care to state absolutely that the mothers were suffering from an actual shortage of the necessary food-stuffs, they were certainly suffering from the effects of a lack of quality in the various articles which go to form an average dietary of a healthy adult.

What is really required is a greater education and training of the general public in the food values of the various articles of diet, their proper cooking and the appropriate choice of food-stuffs according to the season they are at their optimum value.

Special diet sheets have been drawn up for children and adults, and these are distributed from the various Clinics, and in many cases have proved most helpful.

Foods are given free at the various Centres strictly on medical grounds only—not in accordance with income scale.

Two babies suffering from Hare-Lip and Cleft Palate were operated on at the Bristol Infirmary.

Several cases were referred to the Orthopædic Specialist, Dr. A. Rocyn Jones, and the condition appropriately dealt with. Many mothers and toddlers were referred from the various Clinics for dental treatment at the County Clinic.

Two children were examined by Dr. Watkins, a Specialist in Children's diseases.

18.—DR. J. J. O'REILLY, Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed 56%. Breast and Artificially-fed 15%. Artificially-fed 29%.
Babies taken off the Breast before the end of the fourth month are counted as 'Artificially-fed'.

CHEPSTOW.—The Chepstow Centre is held weekly in the Domestic Science Annexe of the Bridge Street School. A Doctor is in attendance at the afternoon session. A separate Ante-Natal Clinic is held monthly at the same place. The attendances for the year have been very satisfactory indeed. The work calls for no detailed comment, the problems arising being the usual stock-in-trade of working-class infant practice. Generally speaking, the mothers are very good and co-operate intelligently—very often the backward baby has a backward mother.

In a few of the most unsatisfactory cases domiciliary visits by the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector had a wholesome effect. Although this can scarcely be regarded as a distressed area, nevertheless a good number of the children come from poor homes. Help is obtained for these cases from any available source; in this connexion I met a few cases in which it appeared to me the Poor Law Assistance schemes were rather harshly administered. Where malnutrition appeared to be threatened by poverty, free food was given, and, similarly, the poorer people were given medicine where they seemed to need it.

The figures for Breast-feeding tabulated above are undoubtedly an improvement on previous years, especially when it is realised that we regard as breast-fed only babies entirely breast-fed up to the end of the fourth month, and that the Artificially-fed babies have had in the great majority of cases at least some weeks of natural feeding.

Amongst other problems met with at the Centre might be mentioned the difficulty poor people have in getting fresh cow's milk in the country; this would seem to be due to the laws dealing with the marketing of milk, and is worthy of the attention of our legislators. Another legislative effort, which does not make for the welfare of the young, is the Daylight Saving Act; even toddlers may be seen about the roads up to nine and ten at night. And then there is the tendency to regard earache and ear discharge as a mere trifle

I would like once again to thank the lady helpers and nurses for their devoted work during the year.

19.—DR. F. M. FONSECA, Medical Officer of Health, Ebbw Vale Urban District.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

	BEAUFORT	EBBW VALE
	%	%
Breast-fed	43·2	55·5
Breast and Artificially-fed ..	3·8	11·1
Artificially-fed	53·0	33·4

BEAUFORT and EBBW VALE.—There has again been an increase in the attendances at the Centre. The distribution of free food at the public expense is only made after strict enquiry into the actual necessities of the cases. The drugs at the disposal of the Centre are used as far as practicable. In cases which require closer observation and further treatment than the weekly meetings permit, parents are advised to consult their own medical attendants. There is a separate Ante-Natal Clinic. No cases of malnutrition were observed among the nursing and expectant mothers or infants who attended the Centre. Very few toddlers attend.

20.—DR. W. H. WILLIAMS, Medical Officer of Health, Monmouth.

MONMOUTH.—The work at this Clinic was smoothly carried out during the year. The average attendance was just under 40 at each session. The local committee have met regularly and have continued to show their continual interest in the work of the Clinic. The same can be said of the V.A.D. Nurses and other helpers who do voluntary work at each session.

At first, 90% of infants are breast-fed. The mothers' milk in the majority of cases has to be supplemented sooner or later. In only a very small number of cases has there been difficulty in finding a suitable food.

There is a definite tendency of a widening attendance. Mothers come in from the Rural Districts in increasing numbers.

There has been no great change in employment figures in Monmouth during the year, therefore the amount of free food given is about the same. The local committee enquire into each case.

Only simple remedies are provided at the Clinic. A number of prescriptions are given to mothers.

Malnutrition :—Babies 3. Toddlers 2.

The attendance of toddlers was up to average during the year.

21.—DR. R. V. de REDWOOD, Medical Officer of Health, Rhymney Urban District.

FEEDING OF INFANTS UNDER NINE MONTHS OF AGE.

Breast-fed 36·3% Breast and Artificially-fed 13·7% Artificially-fed 50%

RHYMNEY.—The attendance at the Centre has been well maintained throughout the year.

A considerable amount of free food was given each week in nearly all cases of illness, poor development, and under-nourishment; owing to the continued unemployment and irregular work in the district.

A few simple drugs and ointments are prescribed; other prescriptions are obtained at the patient's dispensary.

Ante-Natal work is increasing; any cases presenting themselves at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre are referred to the Ante-Natal Clinic; a few cases are referred to me at the Rhymney Hospital, others go to Cardiff, and ultimately to the Maternity Home connected with Cardiff Royal Infirmary at Glossop Terrace.

Cases of Malnutrition :—(I) Nursing Mothers, (II) Non-nursing Mothers, 46; (III) Babies, 10; (IV) Toddlers, 5—a considerable number, for reasons stated at present prevalent in the area.

The Orthopædic Clinic under Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., and Dental Clinics, are much appreciated.

All cases of infants and mothers needing surgical treatment are sent to the Cottage Hospital for further examination and treatment. A number of cases of circumcision, abscess of breast, etc., are dealt with each year, and some are admitted.

The local Committee, *i.e.*, the County Councillors and lady helpers, take an enthusiastic interest in the Centre, and their help is invaluable. Mrs. Hopkins has acted as Secretary for 16 years, and during this time has given much valuable work and time.

J—SALE OF INFANT FOODS, &c., AT THE CENTRES.

The facilities for the purchase at the Infant Welfare Centre of infant foods, etc., continue to be of advantage to the mothers attending the Centres.

The wages earned by many of the men employed in the works and collieries of the County continue very low, and there is still a considerable amount of unemployment throughout the County. The service for the provision of infant foods at a little over cost price, therefore, meets a real necessity.

Dried milks, malt extracts and other infant foods to the value of £5,272 were purchased for sale and for distribution to necessitous cases at the Centres during the year.

A small sum is added to the cost price of the artificial foods sold at the Centres, and this in some measure sets off the cost incurred on the articles given gratis. At a few of the Centres there are voluntary funds, out of which foods are supplied to mothers who do not come within the regulations governing the County Scheme.

The Health Visitors are instructed to take care that only those mothers who regularly attend with their babies at the Centres, and who cannot pay the prevailing high prices, are served with the foods.

In cases where the medical officer in charge of the Centre is of opinion that expectant or nursing mothers and infants are in need on medical grounds, milk is given free if the income of the parents is within the scale fixed by the Council.

Foods to the value of £1,774 1s. 3d. were given for expectant and nursing mothers and for infants during the year. This included £558 1s. 7d. paid for fresh milk.

The following table shows the value of foods given away each year since the commencement of the scheme.

1919	..	..	£140 15 0	1927	..	..	£2,817 18 4
1920	..	..	£537 18 11	1928	..	..	£3,844 1 1
1921	..	..	£5,984 0 0	1929	..	..	£5,092 18 8
(Coal Stoppage : Dinners also given.)				1930	..	..	£4,787 2 6
1922	..	..	£2,232 14 3	1931	..	..	£5,941 2 6
1923	..	..	£1,548 6 7	1932	..	..	£3,372 13 11
1924	..	..	£1,170 3 8	1933	..	..	£995 15 6
1925	..	..	£1,766 14 0	1934	..	..	£1,218 7 1
1926	..	..	£2,469 7 6	1935	..	..	£1,755 6 2
				1936	..	..	£1,774 1 3

K—INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table gives particulars of the training, etc., of the Midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st December, during the past six years, and, for comparison, the year 1912 :—

Year	Number Literate	Number Illiterate	Total No. on Roll	No. holding C.M.B. Certificate	No. holding other Certificates	No. untrained but registered	No. over 60 years of age
1936	224	1	225	218	—	7	30
1935	227	2	229	217	—	12	28
1934	239	2	241	229	—	12	27
1933	230	3	233	218	—	15	30
1932	240	3	243	224	—	19	32
1931	237	4	241	219	—	22	35
1930	237	4	241	215	—	26	35
1912	191	62	253	87	5	161	71

It will be observed that the number of untrained midwives, *i.e.*, those placed upon the roll by virtue of their being in practice prior to the year 1901, has considerably decreased, and

there is only one practising. The remainder are not practising, but as they will not have their certificates cancelled, their names remain on the Roll. The illiterate midwife is not practising.

The success of a Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme depends largely upon the practising midwives, who are asked to co-operate with the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics and look upon them as places where they can send their patients to have any abnormality discovered. They are welcomed to attend the Clinics with their cases and hear them discussed. It is gratifying to record that the midwives of the County heartily respond to this invitation.

Steps are now being taken to inaugurate a County Midwifery Service under the provisions of the Midwives Act 1936, which comes into force on the 31st July, 1937. A special report has been published on the subject.

The number of names removed from the Midwives' Roll during 1936 was 9, 4 through removal from the County, 4 through death, and 1 through resignation.

The Chief Inspectress of Midwives is Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, and there are three District Inspectresses: Nurse O. Griffiths for the Rural Areas, Nurse C. Davies for the Eastern and Western Valleys Areas, and Nurse K. M. Walters for the Rhymney and Sirhowy Valley Areas.

The number of inspection visits paid to midwives in the Urban and Industrial Areas by the Inspectresses of Midwives was 486. In addition 160 visits were made, but the midwives were not at home.

Many special enquiries have been made in addition to the routine inspection visits, and the midwives are given every opportunity to discuss their work. Attention is frequently drawn to the conditions of their practice, and there are indications that the standard of work is improving. Several midwives who could not or would not take pulse and temperature are now able to do so. Insistence on the obtaining and use of the pelvimeter has been made and there are very few midwives in the County without this instrument.

Midwifery scholarships are not now provided by the Education Committee.

1,679 notifications of sending for medical aid, and 118 of cases of still-birth, were received from midwives during the year.

Also 7 notifications of deaths of mothers, 18 notifications of children dying a few hours after birth, and 12 within 10 days of birth, 64 notifications of artificial feeding, 10 notifications from midwives who were liable to be a source of infection, and 7 notifications of having laid out a dead body.

The reasons given in sending for medical aid were as follows:—

High temperature	70	Still-birth	15
Obstructed labour	38	Unsatisfactory condition of child	75
Prolapse of cord	14	Eye affections	119
Hæmorrhage, ante-partum ..	78	Doctor engaged or Patients' request	19
Hæmorrhage, post-partum ..	58	Unsatisfactory condition of mother	56
Prolonged and difficult labour ..	502	Albuminuria	31
Premature birth	21	Spina bifida	7
Abnormal presentation—		Eclampsia	7
Breech	37	Varicose Veins	4
Face	10	Phimosis	3
Hand	1	Inflamed breasts	4
Foot	11	Miscellaneous	13
Undefined	18	Born before arrival	12
Retained placenta	43	Hare lip and cleft palate ..	2
Ruptured perineum	255	Uterine Inertia	50
Hernia	2	Contracted pelvis	11
Abortion	54	Deformities	14
Incomplete abortions	3	Hysteria	4
Abortion threatened	18		

Suspension of midwives to prevent the spread of infection was necessary in 13 cases, 6 on account of puerperal fever, 7 pyrexia, and 2 on account of other infectious diseases. Compensation was paid by the Council to twelve midwives. One midwife was reprimanded by the Executive Officer.

Letters were sent by the County Medical Officer to 15 midwives drawing their attention to minor breaches of the rules of the Board.

L—PROVISION OF MIDWIVES FOR THE COUNTY.

The Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918, are administered by the County Public Health Committee, acting as the Local Supervising Authority, for which the County Medical Officer acts as Executive Officer. The district nursing is provided under the scheme of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, of which Lady Mather Jackson is the Honorary Secretary.

At the present time there are 27 Industrial and 16 Rural constituent Associations affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association, and 55 nurses are employed by them. There are in addition 4 nurses on the staff of the Tredegar Nurses' Home, and 3 at the Tredegar Maternity Home. The aims of the Association have been fully stated in previous reports.

The Nurses' Home at Tredegar is no longer recognised as a training Centre for midwifery pupils.

There are seven maternity beds provided at the Home. During the year 1936, 125 maternity cases were admitted at the Home as compared with 129 in 1935. 110 of these cases were delivered by midwives and 13 by Doctors. There were ten still-births, and one death of an infant within 10 days of birth. There were 386 ante-natal attendances at the Home during the year.

The grants hitherto made to the 'Maternity Home, Tredegar, by the Ministry of Health are now under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, being paid by the County Council. They amount to £225 per annum. An additional grant of £100 per annum to the Maternity Home is included in the County Council's estimates for the year 1936-37.

PROVISION OF MIDWIVES IN RURAL AREAS.—A grant of £580 per annum is made to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association to subsidise the provision of trained midwives in the Rural Areas of the County, in accordance with the scheme of the County Medical Officer, which was approved by the County Public Health Committee and the Local Government Board in October, 1917. During the year 1936, midwives were subsidised in the following areas :—

Llantilio Crossenny.	Itton.	Monmouth.
Goytre and Llanover.	Llanfoist and Llanellen.	Llanfrechfa Lower.
Tintern and St. Arvans.	Llandogo and Trelleck.	Llanarth.
Usk.	Abersychan (Talywain).	St. Mellons and Rumney.
Llangattock-vibon-avel.	Penhow.	Marshfield and St. Brides.
Raglan.	Caldicot.	Caerwent.
		Devauden.

M—COUNTY SCHEME FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme under which Local Maternity and Child Welfare Committees have been set up to render assistance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres has been set out in detail in previous reports. There are 24 Committees, the majority of which are very active and are rendering useful assistance to the mothers and infants attending the Centres.

The scheme was originally intended to serve Maternity and Child Welfare only, but in the year 1929, the County Committee decided to ask the Local Committees to also undertake the after-care of Tuberculosis and the Welfare of the Blind. Schemes have been drafted, and the Local Committees are prepared to administer them, the provision being made in the case of Tuberculosis that the necessary funds are supplied by the County Council. The Committees are co-operating with the County Association for the Blind in the Welfare of the Blind and this part of the scheme has been satisfactorily inaugurated. Very valuable work in the brightening of the lives of blind persons is being carried out by many of the Committees. The matter of Tuberculosis after-care is still in abeyance.

N—TRAINING OF ELDER GIRLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The teaching of mothercraft in Schools is now a matter of national importance, and local authorities are being urged to develop it. In this County the older scholars of Girls' Departments are taught infant care and hygiene at the Domestic Arts Centres of the schools.

O—PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CASES AT HOSPITALS, ETC.

1.—PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.—The joint scheme of the County Council and Education Committee, whereby beds are reserved at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London, was in full operation during the year. The reservation of beds is 24.

Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), the Consultant Orthopædic Surgeon, visits the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, twice a month for the purpose of examining new cases, and re-examining children who have received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. The following children under five years of age were seen by him during the year :—

Metarsus Varus	1	Paralysis of left foot	1
Torticollis	2	Spastic monoplegia	1
Outward curved Tibia	9	Hemiplegia	1
Congenital Equino Varus	2	Arthritis of knees	1
Pes Plano Valgus	14	Contraction of little fingers	1
Pes Cavus	1	Cystic swelling	1
Genu Valgum	8	Quadriplegia	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	Webbed fingers	1
Spastic paraplegia	1	Facial paralysis	1
Rickets	1	No definite diagnosis	2
Pes Planus	5	No physical signs	4
Spastic Quadriplegia	1		
Contracted toes	2		
Deformity of toes	1		
Supernumerary toes	1		

His recommendations were as follows :—

For admission to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital	1
For admission to Brockley Hill Country Branch of the Hospital ..	6
To wear Splints or other apparatus.. ..	10
To have alterations to Boots	27
To see X-Ray Specialist	2
No treatment required	6
Re-examination	12
To have special exercises, etc.	1
	<hr/>
	65
	<hr/>

He also made at the Newport Clinic 62 re-examinations of children who had received treatment at the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital.

During the year 10 infants were sent to the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital or its Country Branch at Stanmore, Middlesex.

The defects from which they suffered were as follows :—

Spinal curvature.. ..	2	Genu Valgum.	2
Outward-curved Tibia	3	Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
Arthritis of knees	1	Semi-membraneous bursa	1

Since the inception of the scheme 157 infants and children under 5 years of age have received treatment at the Hospital.

Upon discharge of the children from the Orthopædic Hospital, the County Medical Officer takes charge of their after-care. He sees them periodically at the Central Orthopædic Clinic, Newport, and at the Clinics at Crumlin, Pengam, Tredegar, Monmouth, and Chepstow, and supervises their massage and electrical treatment and appropriate after-care when necessary. A close watch is kept upon surgical boots and instruments which have been supplied to the children, to see that they are properly and constantly worn, and continue to be suitable. During the year 1936, 145 crippled infant children including cases of first diagnosis and re-examinations were seen at these clinics.

Seven infants attended the Clinic for massage and electrical treatment during the year, making 159 attendances.

Three walking instruments, 11 splints, 7 night shoes, and 5 pairs of surgical boots were supplied for these children by the County Council. Alterations to boots were made for 58 children, also 6 alterations to walking instruments and repairs to 2 splints. The total cost in this connection was £50 14s. 1d. Infants suffering from Surgical Tuberculosis are treated at the Hospitals of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

In this County there is no excuse for delay in obtaining early treatment. Many cases are discovered by the Health Visitors and the Medical Officers in charge of the Infant Welfare Centres, who notify them to the County Medical Officer, and he arranges an examination by the Consultant Orthopædic Surgeon. If treatment is required, the child's name is placed upon the hospital waiting list and the child is admitted as soon as a vacancy occurs.

2.—OTHER TREATMENT.—(a) Dental.—Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches, L.D.S., R.C.S., Senior School Dentist under the Education Committee, devotes one half-day per week to dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers, and also children under 5 years of age. Each Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the County is visited by Mr. Riches, and advice given to expectant and nursing mothers who have carious teeth. Treatment (extractions only) of those who desire it is afterwards given at the nearest County School Clinic. The treatment figures for the year are as follows :—

No. of appointments made	..	2,081
No. of appointments kept	..	1,307
No. of cases given "gas" ..	..	1,295
No. of permanent teeth extracted ..		3,674
No. of temporary teeth extracted ..		1,644
No. of mothers treated ..	..	811
No. of children treated ..	..	485

The treatment is limited to extraction of defective teeth. Mothers who require dentures have to make their own arrangements. The need for dental treatment is still not understood sufficiently well by expectant mothers, for there are many examined at the ante-natal clinics and infant centres who do not follow the advice given in regard to treatment. This may be due to the fact that many women, for financial reasons, would be unable to obtain artificial teeth after the extractions have been made.

(b) Defective Vision.—Urgent cases of squint and defective vision in children under school age who attend at the Infant Welfare Centres are referred for examination at the local school clinics. 65 children attended the Clinics during the year and spectacles were prescribed for 41.

(c) Tonsils and Adenoids.—44 cases urgently requiring attention and referred from the Infant Welfare Centres received operative treatment at the School Clinics.

(d) Otorrhœa.—Weekly Aural Sessions are held at five school clinics and 95 children under 5 years of age attended, making 265 visits.

(e) Miscellaneous.—Two children were sent to Cardiff Royal Infirmary for treatment—one suffering from Marasmus and one from imperforate anus.

3.—HOSTEL FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.—The Maternity Home and Hostel at Nantyderry continues to do good work. There are 10 beds at the Institution, and the number of girls admitted during the year was 14, the average duration of stay being 138 days. Fourteen babies were born. The total number of inmates during the year (including those who were admitted in the previous year) was 19 girls and 16 babies.

13 girls were discharged, of whom 5 went to relatives and 6 to Homes and 2 to a situation. Of the babies discharged, 3 went to relations, 7 to Homes, and 5 were adopted.

Of the girls resident in the Hostel during the year, 2 were from the Borough of Newport, 12 from the County of Monmouth, 1 from Cardiff, 2 from Brecon, 1 from Montgomery, and 1 from Hereford.

The object of the Hostel is to make provision during pregnancy and confinement for unmarried women who have borne good characters, but were expecting a first baby, thus

giving them a chance of privacy which they could not secure in a public institution, and enabling them to preserve their self-respect.

Generally the girls are admitted one month before their confinement and remain for three months after the birth of the child. As far as possible the mother and child are not separated for at least the first 3 months of the infant's life.

During their stay at the Hostel, the mothers are trained to undertake some useful work when they leave, and arrangements are made when necessary for the boarding out of the baby.

The work at Nantyderry is carried out economically and on practical lines, and the results justify the vast amount of time given to it by the Committee and the Honorary Secretary, Lady Mather Jackson.

The County Council makes an annual contribution of £330 to the Hostel.

4.—MEDICAL ATTENDANCE AT CONFINEMENTS.—Under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, the County Council are responsible for the payment of fees of medical practitioners called by midwives in cases of emergency, under certain specified conditions.

Fees to the amount of £625 11s. 0d. were paid during the financial year. The Council have power to recover the whole or part of such fees from the husbands, and the total amount collected in this way by the Finance Department was £80 10s. 3d. The fees paid in the year 1935 totalled £833 9s. 0d. Amount collected from husbands, £58 19s. 0d.

All these cases are investigated at the homes by the County Officers before they are passed by the County Medical Officer.

5.—PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—The old Poor-law Institutions of the County are now under the control of the County Council, and the following table shows the accommodation available for maternity cases, and its use during the period 1st January, 1936, to 31st December, 1936 :—

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	TREDEGAR	CHEPSTOW	PONTYPOOL	TOTAL
Number of Maternity Beds	6	2	4	12
Number of Confinements during year	25	7	9	41

6.—DIFFICULT LABOUR CASES.—Facilities for consultation with Professor G. I. Strachan, M.D., F.R.C.S., Senior Assistant Gynæacologist of the Welsh National Medical School, and the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, are provided for these cases, and hospital treatment given when necessary.

64 cases were examined by Dr. Strachan, and 48 of them were subsequently admitted to the Maternity Hospital of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. 4 other cases were sent to the Maternity Department making a total of 52. 12 cases recommended by the County Council were admitted to the Tredegar Maternity Home as the conditions for the confinement of the women in their own homes were unsuitable. One woman who suffered from Venereal Disease was sent to the London Lock Hospital for her confinement.

7.—REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.—Four Homes have been registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, one at Tredegar (Maternity and Nursing), one at Nantyderry (Maternity), one at Bassaleg (Nursing), and the Victoria Cottage Hospital, Abergavenny. Powers of inspection of the Homes are given to the County Medical Officer, and are carried out. All the registered Homes were found to be satisfactory at the annual inspection.

Applications for exemption have been received from the majority of the voluntary hospitals of the County.

P—INFANT PROTECTION.

The supervision of children under the Children and Young Persons Acts is undertaken by one of the Council's Health Visitors. There were 26 children on the County Register at the end of the year. A visit of inspection is paid every three months to see that the health and home circumstances of the children are satisfactory. Generally, the standard of the home and the foster mother is good and most of the women are appreciative of the visits of the Infant Protection Officer. There was no need for the taking of proceedings in any case. It is surprising how well the children are looked after, considering that in many cases payments by parents are made irregularly and in some cases not at all.

During the year eleven cases were removed from the Register for the reasons stated:—

Left County	4
Attained the age of 9 years ..	7

Nine new cases were notified during the year.

Q—CONCLUSIONS.

The Infant Mortality Rate is practically the same as that for the year 1935, 61·7 against 61·4 per 1,000 births. The lowest rate on record was that of 1934, which was 57·4 per 1,000 births. When it is remembered that the rate for 1915 was 129 per 1,000 births, the value of the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme becomes apparent.

Unfortunately, the Maternal Mortality Rate does not show improvement. This year's rate is 6·8 per 1,000 live births, being a similar rate to that for 1935. It is considerably higher than it was ten years ago, and perhaps changes in the classification of maternal deaths may account for the increase.

At the beginning of the present year (1937) a co-ordinated scheme for attacking maternal mortality was initiated. Expectant mothers are provided with sterile maternity outfits and also with a special disinfectant for use at the confinement. The mothers pay anything from 6d. to 4/-, which is practically the cost price of the sterile outfits to the County Council.

In the first half of this year about 1,900 sterile outfits will have been supplied, and we are hoping that as time goes on each expectant mother will have this outfit.

Adexolin capsules, which contain vitamins A and D, are given to all expectant mothers in the later stages of pregnancy and who attend the Ante-Natal Clinics.

There has also been initiated a scheme by which every medical practitioner in the County is given a supply of Streptocide—a sulphonamide product—for the treatment of high temperatures in the lying-in period and which threaten development into Puerperal Fever.

Arrangements have also been made for Professor Strachan, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynæcology in the Welsh National School of Medicine, to be called in to the assistance of any medical practitioner in the County where he requires his services in difficult labours.

Arrangements have been entered into with the Cardiff Royal Infirmary for the confinement of difficult labours, and also with the Nursing Home at Tredegar for cases where it is difficult or unsuitable for the confinements to take place at home.

In addition to the above measures, the National Birthday Trust Fund distribution of foodstuffs was continued throughout the year, and which is a gift of Ovaltine, Ostermilk and Yeast Extract for pregnant women in the distressed areas of the County.

Although we have only had six months' experience of the working of this combined scheme or team work, we are pleased to state that the outlook as regards maternal mortality is a favourable one, provided the remaining six months of the year function in a similar manner.

The adaptation of The Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital (The Coldra) is nearing completion, and it is expected that it will be opened in the autumn. This provision will also help in combating our high maternal mortality rate.

The Midwives Act, 1936, which aims at an efficient midwifery service for the County, should also help to lessen our maternal mortality rate.

We are being pressed by the Ministry of Health to establish Post-Natal Clinics and Welfare Centres for the toddlers (children from 1½ to 5 years of age). Many of the latter attend at the ordinary infant welfare sessions, but there is undoubted need for expansion. Any extension of the facilities in this direction, and in the opening of Post-Natal Clinics, would entail extra clinic accommodation with an increased staff.

D. ROCYN JONES,

County Medical Officer.